

TIME,
Our Greatest ALLY
and ENEMY

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1

Introduction	i	2
Chapter One: There Is God	1	3
Our Great God	1	4
His Decision	5	5
His Attributes	11	6
He Moves	18	7
Chapter Two: The Gift of Time	26	8
The Concept of Time	26	9
God Owns Time	30	10
Time with God	37	11
Time Gifted to Humanity	45	12
Chapter Three: Time and the Human Condition	53	13
Time, Our Ally	55	14
Time, Our Enemy	63	15
A Misconception of Time	71	16
Leaving Time	77	17
Chapter Four: There Is a Time for Everything	84	18
Before the Counter Starts	88	19

1	Understanding Life's Seasons	93
2	Preparing for Life's Seasons	101
3	Moving with Time	108
4	Chapter Five: Prioritizing Time	115
5	Numbering our Days	120
6	Living Within Margins	126
7	Time Conscious	133
8	Taking it All In	139
9	Chapter Six: Morality and Time	148
10	God is the Same	152
11	Regardless of the Culture	158
12	An Enemy Has Done This	167
13	Staying with God	174
14	Chapter Seven: Redeeming the Time	182
15	Look Carefully	186
16	Not as Unwise but as Wise	190
17	Because the Days Are Evil	197
18	Do Not Be Foolish	207
19	Chapter Eight: Understanding and	
20	Fulfilling the Will of God	213
21	Proactive and Practical	220
22	His Will is Good	225
23	His Will is Acceptable	232
24	His Will is Perfect	238
25	Conclusion	246



INTRODUCTION

THE CONCEPT AND purpose of “Time” is difficult to explain. 3
We all have our personal views and experiences with it. 4
Time can be extremely challenging to manage, and often, 5
it is wasted on trivial and unimportant matters. Regardless 6
of how we feel about time, it continues to move. Biblically, 7
time is linear because God owns it and sets it into motion. 8
He gives it to us as a gift, whereby we can keep track of our 9
days and seasons on Earth. As a linear concept, time points 10
to a sequential set of life events, moments, and experiences 11
constantly moving from one point to another. So, from a 12
biblical perspective, “Time moves.” 13

Time is not an illusion as some suppose because it has 14
a starting point and will, at some point, end. Consider the 15
Creation narrative in Genesis Chapter One and how God 16
put everything into motion. The remarkable and extraor- 17
dinary way He spoke and “it was so” details His bound- 18
less authority. Because He owns it, God can come in and 19

1 out of time without limitations or constraints. Time is
2 His artistry. God constructs everything with careful detail,
3 gives it context, and sets it into this extraordinary colander
4 called “Time” (Gen. 1:3).

5 The idea of time moving is consistent throughout
6 Scripture. Various events are registered and related to God’s
7 design of salvation for the world. For example, Christ’s
8 prophecy, birth, death, and resurrection were recorded in
9 time; the same holds for His restoring the kingdom to
10 Israel. “He said to them, it is not for you to know times
11 or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own author-
12 ity” (Acts 1:7). The response Christ gave to His followers
13 was directed toward something that would happen in the
14 future, which confirmed the moving and progression of
15 time.

16 Another example of the movement of time is recorded
17 in the book of Genesis, which shows the intent of God
18 as Creator to display the development and emergence of
19 nature. There is a natural process to everything He cre-
20 ated. “...God said, let there be lights in the expanse of the
21 heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them
22 be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let
23 them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light
24 upon the Earth. And it was so. And God made the two
25 great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser
26 light to rule the night—and the stars. And God set them
27 in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to
28 rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the
29 light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.
30 And there was evening, and there was morning, the fourth
31 day” (Gen. 1:14-19).

32 God’s divine nature is good; therefore, His intentions
33 for creation are good. The reality of “Time” as a special

gift to humanity would be one of many factors that characterize His goodness. One example of His benevolence was displayed in the earthly lives of the first two humans (Adam and Eve) as they explored and experienced the development and progression of their environment. Supplying the couple with “signs, seasons, and days” indicates God’s intent to give them a fruitful and fulfilling existence. God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man in his own image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth” (Gen 1:26-28).

Notice the words, image, dominion, and fruitful in the passage mentioned; they explain God’s plan for humanity, which was to enjoy the work of His hands all under the splendor of time. However, nothing in nature that God created and caused to yield was of any significant value or need for Him because He is self-sufficient. All things are dependent upon Him for their existence. He is the source and origin of life. God spoke, and it came into existence (Genesis Chapter 1). Can you imagine seeing everything develop and progress without anything coming to an end, moving along the pendulum of time without interference or distractions?

Unfortunately, everything changed due to the tragic turn of events that unfolded between the man and the woman (Gen 3:1-6). The couple disobeyed God, and everything

1 began to decline, starting with themselves. Time would con-
2 tinue to move, showing the waning and decay of creation.
3 As a result, everything in nature will, at some point, cease
4 to exist and come to an end. Apostle John writes about the
5 glorious new city for those whose names are in the Book of
6 Life, but not without mentioning the folding of our planet.
7 He wrote, “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for
8 the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the
9 sea was no more” (Rev. 21:1).

10 Time, our great *ally*, has also become our *enemy* be-
11 cause we can measure the beginning, progression, and
12 now, the end. Everything that we find comfort in and en-
13 joy will eventually conclude. A wholesome movie, a thrill-
14 ing sporting event, a vacation, and, unfortunately, human
15 life all have one thing in common: they must end. Because
16 we know everything will at some point expire, we try to
17 savor every moment, detail, and experience. As powerfully
18 moving as a sermon inspired by God is, we know that the
19 preacher must wrap it up. Our engagement with the Word
20 at that moment made it feel like time stood still. When, in
21 fact, it wasn’t standing still because, at some point, there
22 was a benediction. Unfortunately, all our satisfying occa-
23 sions and moments must come to an end.

24 We face the reality of our lives passing away. Aging
25 indicates the decaying of our bodies resulting from the
26 fall in the Garden of Eden. In our youth, we have a burst
27 of energy, but at some point, it will eventually fade, caus-
28 ing us to slow down. Think about the times we reminisce
29 when flipping through photos that capture us at the peak
30 of our lives. “Those were the days,” as we like to say, as
31 we realize our limitations and restrictions. And because
32 we know our earthly bodies and lives will, at some point,
33 cease, how should we invest our time? What do we give

ourselves over to, and who are the people we should share 1
our moments with? Considering our time is limited in all 2
respects, what should be our attitude? How should we ap- 3
proach our days, weeks, months, and years? One thing's 4
sure: with so little time left, we cannot afford to be ne- 5
glectful; we must focus on what matters. 6

It is often said, "Our greatest commodity is time." If 7
this is true, we must exercise discretion and wisdom re- 8
garding how we use it. Time cannot be recreated or re- 9
cycled, and we cannot get it back or bottle it to use later. 10
For example, some people are tight-fisted with money or 11
valuables but seem to let time slip through their fingers. 12
They rarely view time as precious because it cannot be pur- 13
chased or procured; therefore, it is unnoticeable to them. 14
But if only they were as watchful with time as they are 15
with their resources, they would have the most satisfying 16
and fulfilling moments in the areas that count. If only we 17
could see the value of making the most of every moment 18
and the difference it would make in our well-being and 19
relationships. Whether we realize it or not, every detail of 20
our lives is housed in time; therefore, we must understand 21
the value of numbering our days (Ps. 90:12). 22

As stated, time is our *ally* because it aids us in record- 23
ing our moments, sharing experiences, and progressing in 24
our world. However, it (time) is also our *enemy* because 25
it reminds us of the temporal nature of our pleasures, ac- 26
complishments, and thrilling moments. No wonder we 27
attempt to savor everything that is enjoyable to our senses 28
because we understand that those pleasurable moments 29
are temporary. Furthermore, we often avoid discussing 30
physical decline and deterioration because our happy and 31
fulfilling moments are all on the clock, and time is ticking. 32
After all, who wants to face the certainty of things ending 33