



The Right Time Bible Study

[Please provide: Bibles, hymnals, a copy of this study for each participant, and an accompanist if you wish to sing the hymn verses included in this study.]

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. Galatians 4:4–5

Opening Hymn: Read or sing together, “O Sing of Christ,” verses 1 and 2 (LSB 362).

Opening Prayer: Lord of time and God of the Church, we come to You to ask You to guide us in understanding the moments of our lives. Bless us with wisdom to trust Your providence, by caring for us in all that is necessary for this life, and all that is needed for the life to come. Teach us to trust You for Your timing in our lives, including how and when You bring Your gifts of care to us. Guide us in faith and faithfulness as Your children. Remind us that at the right time, You sent Jesus Christ into the world, so that You could redeem the lost and protect the elect, through Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen

Chronology is “moving time.” We speak of how time flies, because we cannot change its flow. Seconds become minutes; hours become days; weeks and months become years; centuries become millennia. The passage of time is essential to our lives.

Thinking About Time

Why does time fly when we are having fun, and linger while we suffer? _____

Read Psalm 90:1–12. In these verses, what does God tell us about Himself in relation to time?

What control of time do we have in our lives? _____

How can our understanding of time help our understanding of God and His plan? _____

Compare Jude 24–25 with the verses you just read from Psalm 90. How is God timeless?

Speak or sing together, “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past,” verse 5 (LSB 733, TLH 123, LW 180). How do these lyrics reflect the Biblical truths you previously read concerning time?

Moving Time And Moments Of Importance

Although our lives are marked by the passage of time, most of what we understand has more to do with the moments we deem important in our lives. We see events within time as essential to how our lives are fitted together, and we even note the plan of God in the ways that we grow and in the things that we experience. Physicists speak of time as the fourth dimension, because time and place are often determined by when, as well as by where. This gives us a picture of a proper time, or the “right time.” Let me illustrate this with a story:

As a boy, I went to the frozen lakes of Minnesota with my father, who liked to supplement our diet with fish. I remember being in a dark house, (one of the huts on a lake in winter), with a hole he chipped through the ice, a few decoys hung down into the water, and an eleven point spear that he used to throw at bigger fish when they came into view. The rope from the spear was attached to his leg so that it would not be lost, and he could retrieve the fish. The darkness of the fish house allowed me to see the fish come into view, while sunlight filtered through the ice around us and revealed little fish as well as big ones, swimming beneath us. When the northern pike came into view, I was hushed by his finger to his lips, and as he motioned to me, I stepped back for him. I watched as my dad threw the spear, and retrieved our supper. There was a sense of timing that was needed for his throw to be successful, as well as accuracy, so that both were essential for his purpose to be fulfilled.

Let's explore what the Bible says concerning God's sense of timing and His accuracy in His purpose.

How would you describe the difference between moving time (chronology) and the right time (moment of importance)? _____

Read Ecclesiastes 3:1–17. Describe those things in these verses that show a sense of “moving time.” _____

Describe those things that show a sense of “moments of importance.” _____

Compare the verses you just read in Ecclesiastes with Psalm 90:1–12 that you read earlier in this study. How can you use the flow of time to bring glory to God? _____

Read or sing together, “Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You,” verses 1–3 (LSB 668, TLH 444, LW 303). Why is our time on earth precious? _____

God's Plan And His Timing

How does God plan time for our benefit? _____

Read Galatians 4:4-5. Do we know for certain the exact date and time when Jesus was born?

Why does Galatians 4:4 call the time when Jesus came to earth the “fullness of time” or “the right time”? _____

What do each of these verses say about God’s timing concerning Jesus’ earthly ministry, as well as His promised mission to save all people from their sins?

Mark 1:15: _____

Romans 3:21–26: _____

Romans 5:6: _____

Ephesians 1:7–10: _____

1 Timothy 6:11–19: _____

As we read these Scripture passages, we note how God has control of time to bring about what He desires to accomplish. Time becomes God’s servant in the salvation of the world. God’s timing and accuracy in bringing salvation in Jesus is perfect. At the time, the world had a language which was precise for writing God’s Word, a system of roads that allowed easy travel to foreign nations, and population which would grow in order to reach the most possible people over the next two millennia. Even now, God knows how to work His grace in our world. God’s timing in our life is eternal. It will continue until Jesus’ second coming as well as when we reach our heavenly home in timely fashion.

Read or sing together, “There Is A Time For Everything,” verse 4 (LSB 762). According to this hymn verse, how is God continuing to use time in our lives? _____

Why do we say, “Hindsight is better than foresight”? _____

Read Romans 8:18–39. Knowing that God perfectly sees the right time, why is it often hard for us to accept His timing? _____

Growing In Time

Read the following verses and identify the times of growing in our lives that each one describes.

Luke 8:4–15: _____

Ephesians 5:16: _____

Which of the growing seasons described in these verses have you experienced in your life?

Read Hebrews 4:14–16. Where in your own life has God used testing at the right time? _____

God's Timing For Our Future

We will not have a perfect world until Jesus comes again. Do we long for Him to judge sinners, or do we desire hope for His chosen saints? Can we have perfect joy while sin exists in and around us? These questions help us reflect upon God's purposes to redeem the world. While we long for redemption, we also understand that the redemption which God plans is for more than just us only. We long for an end to sin, but that also means an end to sinners. Hope for His saints is for Him to bring relief from sin and its effects. The perfect joy His Spirit brings is tainted in our lives by our own sinful flesh, and will not be complete until Jesus comes again in glory.

Read Mark 13: 24–37. What will Jesus' return as King of glory be like? _____

Read Matthew 25:1–12, 31–46, and 2 Peter 3:1–9. How can we be prepared for Jesus' second coming?

Why can we say our Lord's return will be at "the right time?" _____

Closing Prayer: Read or sing, "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns," verses 1–5 (LSB 348, LW 26).

The Right Time
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