

TAKE UP THY SWORD †

A newsletter with hope and encouragement from the Holy Bible

For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword... (Hebrews 4:16)

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Time for Takeover

And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art... For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever (Genesis 13:14-15).

We've all heard the expressions: "time is money" and "timing is everything," but which time are we referring to? As Christians, we must understand the separation between kronos and kairos time. In the natural, we pay more attention to and must be mindful of measurable, sequential time (kronos/chronos). However in the spirit, we should always be awaiting those times of divine opportunities which may lead to our destiny (kairos). How does the Word clarify this distinction?

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened (Gen 7:11).

But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons (Gal 4:4-5).

So whenever someone asks us for the time, we don't have to just look at our watch – can we also take a peek at God's watch! Jesus says in Matthew 26:41, "watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation," but we should also be looking for and patiently awaiting the blessings, promises, favor, and prophecies that have been spoken over us. What about this "new thing" we have to birth?

Is any thing too hard for the Lord? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son (Gen 18:14).

And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life (2 Kings 4:17).

When I moved from CA to RI in 1994 then to FL in 2003, it was not only my time for transition/deliverance but also my season. We should desire to have an "understanding of the times" (1 Chron 12:32), but we should also ask the Lord to give us the wisdom and knowledge needed to discern the seasons. I thank God because winter (natural/spiritual cold) doesn't last always – those times of lack, loneliness, or laziness. I have to remember the scriptures:

- *To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven (Ecc 3:1).*
- *For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will sure come, it will not tarry (Hab 2:3).*

- *If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit (Lev 26:3-4).*

NOW is the time to embrace our God-given right to rule and reign. He reminds us in Psalm 2:8, "Ask of Me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession." So all we have to do is ask! Didn't God grant the special request of Jabez in First Chronicles 4:10? Well Paul tells us in Acts 10:34 that "God is no respecter of persons," therefore we can boldly come before His throne and ask for that new ministry, business, relationship, etc. What can we now "take over" during this economic crisis? Is there vacant property we can purchase or an open position we can fill? *It is time to seek the Lord* (Hos 10:12), so we can hear instructions like He gave to the children of Israel before Joshua led them into the promised land:

Ye have compassed this mountain long enough: turn you northward (Deut 2:3).

After crossing the Jordan, the Lord explained in Joshua, chapter 6, how the wall of Jericho (an obstacle to the Israelites) would come down. He said for the "men of war" (6:3) along with 7 priests blowing trumpets (battle cry) and the ark of the covenant (presence of God) to compass the city without speaking for 6 days. However on the 7th day, all the people were to go around the city 7 times. On the final lap, Joshua said: "Shout; for the Lord hath given you the city" (6:16). So everyone/everything in Jericho was destroyed unless God told them otherwise (i.e. the silver, gold, brass, iron, and Rahab and her family).

We need to inquire about our set times of promotion, "for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Gal 6:9)!

THUS SAITH THE LORD, "And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God" (Deut 28:2).

PRAYER: *These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season. That thou givest, them they gather... they are filled with good (Ps 104:27-28).*

"... Be encouraged in the law of the Lord" (2 Chron 31:4):

Exodus 9:4-6; Deuteronomy 11:13-15; Job 14:14; Psalm 62:5-8, 90:12, 102:13; Daniel 2:20-22; Matthew 16:2-3; Acts 3:19-21, 17:26-27; Ephesians 5:15-17; 2 Peter 3:8

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