

The Day of Visitation

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Scripture References: Mt. 23:37, 13:30; Lk. 13:34, John 2:4, 1 Peter 2:12, 2 Peter 3:12; Revelation 14:14-16; Daniel 7:25, 9:25, Psalm 16

Timing is very important to God – we see it in the Scriptures. However, I’ve learned over many years of ministry that most Christian ministers don’t seem to understand this. Sometimes they do understand it yet they will miss their “day of visitation” for their church simply because they don’t pray into the timing of the Lord.

We’ve seen over many years of ministry how smart the devil is and how he has an uncanny ability to destroy many if not most churches where the Spirit is moving and people are being brought into the Kingdom. Believe me, if that church has a weakness (and most do) he will find it. Also, because most churches are not involved in spiritual warfare in America and the West he will send many Agents, humans who serve the Dark Kingdom, into the church to destroy it. For example, I know about a church in California where Satan sent an Agent who impersonated a Christian and she was there for many years, eventually being promoted to Sunday School Superintendent. During the years that she was there not one person was born again!

When the Lord first sent me to Africa 22 years ago I learned that one of Satan's main strategies is to raise up false churches/ministries while simultaneously trying to destroy the true ones. It's only by vigilance in prayer and the use of other spiritual weapons that God's true churches are able to stand.

But often the good churches are destroyed simply because the Lord is trying to do something in that particular body that requires critical timing. I've learned that what the Lord said to Brother Hagin many years ago is absolutely true – “most ministers live and die without ever entering into their first phase of ministry.” Have you ever thought about the fact that your ministry or church may be at a standstill simply because it's dependent on another church or ministry? There is another church or ministry that has special spiritual gifts that are required to move you forward? That's why I always tell people to pray about divine appointments. Often Christians will recognize the Hand of God and see this as an answer to their prayers like a woman in Canada did with us 10 years ago; however, you must understand that divine appointments are nearly always a two-way street. Yes, God may be sending someone with particular gifting to answer your prayers but you need to pray about what God wants to use you to do in the life of that person as well.

Now you might say to yourself, “Oh, yes, Brother Timmons, I know that timing is important to God. I've seen it in my prayer life.” Yet it's been my observation in ministry that most Christians and ministers seem to have a cavalier attitude in this area of timing. They seem to think that it doesn't matter, for example, who ministers at your church or *when* they do. I first observed this phenomenon in Austin among the pastors in the Austin Area Ministers Association over 25 years ago and seen it among churches all over the world.

One of the main reasons this occurs I believe is that Christians simply do not pray through on most decisions they make. When I became involved in Africa back in the '80s I had many African ministers staying at my home. Months before they arrived I would announce to the ministerial association when they would be here and to let me know if the Lord wanted them to minister in their churches. Yet I found that these pastors were too *busy* to pray about it and instead would always ask me for a recommendation.

Still today I don't think most Christians understand that everything we do should be led by the Spirit of God. We need to know, for example, if we are pastoring a church, what God's plan is for our church as well as the community. Yet I've found that this is rarely known. Most churches operate in a spiritual vacuum on an island by themselves.

Let me give you a few examples and then we'll discuss *why* timing is important to God and the reason many Christians don't get their prayers answered right away because they don't recognize God's timing and therefore *miss* their "Day of Visitation."

In the Summer of 1991 I ministered at a certain church in Arizona for the first time. Because my son Jonathan had a call to be an apostle at an early age I took him with me. When we were flying into the city I saw by the Spirit a huge blazing fire east of the city. I learned later that there were two reservations at that location and the Lord showed me that His plan to birth revival and spiritual growth in that area was dependent upon all the churches working together to bring revival on the reservations. I conveyed this to the churches through a breakfast we hosted in the community among all the church pastors. Many of them agreed that this bore witness in their spirit yet few ever did anything to bring God's plan to pass.

In 1999 my wife and I ministered at a church in British Columbia; it was a 100+ year old Pentecostal church in that community. Whenever the Lord sends us to churches we always receive revelation about the problems in that church that are thwarting the plan of God. I've had this gift for a long time and I've come to realize that it's part of the apostolic anointing – being able to put things in order. But what happened at this church in Canada I've never had happen before – the moment I sat down on the pew I saw the complete past and future (God's intended future) for this church. The Lord wanted to use that church to birth revival throughout the Okanagan valley. A year or so later there we received a confirmation of this from a minister who said that Dr. Cho had prophesied that there would be a great revival in the Okanagan back in the '80s. Yet it's not occurred. Why is that? Because this church did not recognize their Day of Visitation from the Lord.

I could give many more examples but let me just stress for those of you in Five-fold ministry how important it is to not get too busy to pray, especially about those the Lord wants to bring to your church to help grow the people. That is why there are five offices and we need all of them. The Lord told me in 1996, "The apostolic banner is beginning to wave and from this apostolic move I will bring order out of chaos." You see, my brother and sister, you can do a lot of good in any church or ministry but you will never reach the level of great anointing and Presence of God that Jesus desires without a lot of spiritual effort in prayer, spiritual warfare, etc.

I preached a message from the Lord a few years ago titled, "Bringing the Will of God to Pass Through Spiritual Warfare." Too many Christians and ministers think that the will of God is automatic but it's not – it requires wisdom on our part and effort, especially intercession, to bring God's perfect will to pass and you will be contested – that's why it's warfare!

The same is true of personal prophecy – we see it in the Scriptures. Just because God gives you a personal prophecy doesn't mean it will automatically happen. It just means God is saying to you, "This is my perfect will for your life." But it's up to you, not God, to bring it to pass. The Lord showed me this in 1988 with Paul's admonition to Timothy that he must "war" with his personal prophecies (1 Timothy 1:18). If you don't, the devil will steal it away from you.

I want us to look at some verses of Scripture that demonstrate the importance of timing. Five years ago at our church in Montana the Lord gave me a revelation about this and how Jesus Himself was very aware of God's timing. At that time the Lord had given me a revelation concerning the Second Coming of Elijah that I preached titled, *The Spirit of Elijah*, and if you don't understand this revelation then you need to listen to these messages (4 Cd's available in our bookstore). I had planned to conclude that series on Easter Sunday of that year instead of preaching on The Resurrection as ministers normally do on Easter, however, the Lord gave me a revelation on the Resurrection and instructed me to preach it.

You see, we tend to think because Jesus was the Son of God that somehow He did not have to go through a lot of the same things we do (an idea not supported in the Scriptures I might add); that He didn't have to study the Scriptures for Himself and find the Scriptures in the Word that pertained to Him as the Messiah. But that's exactly what He did! That is *how* Jesus knew He would be resurrected! He found it in the Scriptures (*cf.* Psalm 16). And just like you and I, Jesus had to pray into the timing of the Father when He saw a prophecy concerning Himself. Consider the following:

"Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine [hour](#) has not yet come."

Why did Jesus say that?

“Let both grow together until the harvest and in the **time** of the harvest I will say to the reapers. Gather up first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.”

This is an interesting verse because we tend to think of the time of harvest as being the complete Gospel Age; however, Jesus says that there is a certain time, a *kairos* (Greek) moment, when He will reap the harvest. That is why He is pictured in Revelation 14:14-16 with a sickle in His Hand.

Every month when I read through Daniel I'm always struck with how God showed Daniel the complete panorama of human history in a series of visions beginning with Nebuchadnezzar's vision of the gold-headed statue. I've commented here before another interesting fact that both the beginning and end of the Gentile age that began with Judah's captivity are marked by the required worship of an idol – a statue. The Antichrist's statue is still to come.

Another interesting fact about Daniel is the time line God gives him. I've often wondered how the Jewish Rabbis are not able to understand simply from Daniel that the Messiah has already come; Daniel's time line is quite clear that Messiah would be “cut off” or killed within 483 years of “the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem” (Daniel 9:25). It can only be the “blindness” Paul spoke about that keeps them from realizing that Jesus was the Messiah based on this time line.

Notice also the “timing” given to Daniel in this vision (v. 24): “Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city.” God has a time line; sometimes He will show it to you – sometimes He will modify it based on intercession or other factors.

Because the devil knows how critical God's timing can sometimes be the Bible says that he "shall seek to change the times" (Daniel 7:25) during the end. I have a copy of the Bible that Jesus used in His day to study the Scriptures. It's called the Septuagint – a Greek translation of the Hebrew. The Greek language is one of the most *precise* languages in the world. There are three Greek words for "time." The one we normally think of that means a *period* of time is [χρόνος \(chronos\)](#).

It's the word from which we get our word *chronometer*. The word in Daniel 7:25, for "times," however, is the Greek word [καιρός \(kairos\)](#). It means a "fixed or definite period" of time. It's normally used in reference to a *season* in which the Lord wants to do something or did do something. In our own lives it is obvious that the devil almost always knows what is going on spiritually with us or our church and he is seeking to "change" those "times" so that the will of the Lord will not be accomplished in our lives.

The devil knows if he can change your *kairos* moments it will not only prevent God's will for your life but it will also impact the lives of others and prevent God's overall plan for Planet Earth from being realized.

We've never lived in a *time* when it is more critical for you to be fully engaged in spiritual warfare and prayer, especially prayer in the Spirit, so that the devil is not able to *change* that which the Lord seeks to do *in* you and *through* you. I want to encourage you between now and Easter to be a disciplined soldier of the Cross so that the devil does not steal your *Day of Visitation*. Praise the Lord!