



It's About Time

GEN 1:1-2

The Beginning

❖ Gen 1:1

- In the beginning God created the “trinity of nature”

Laws of creation: three fundamental aspects of our universe:

- ❖ Space (the where, place for where matter is put, “Heaven”)
- ❖ Matter (the what, substance and energy of which creation is made, “Earth”)
- ❖ Time (the when, for space and matter to exist, “In the beginning”)

The Beginning

- ❖ Space: LENGTH, WIDTH, HEIGHT
- ❖ Matter: SOLID, LIQUID, GAS
- ❖ Time: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE.

THESE THREE MUST EXIST
SIMULTANEOUSLY

THE GOD OF THE BIBLE IS NOT SUBJECT
TO THESE LAWS AS CREATOR

TIME

In the Bible, time is viewed as a linear experience, with a clear distinction between the “**temporal**” and the “**eternal**” (2 Corinthians 4:18).

God’s perspective on time is **eternal**, while **human experience** **is limited to a finite period**.

The Bible portrays time as a sphere of God’s preserving and redemptive work, and the arena of human decision-making

(Carl F.H. Henry).

TEMPORAL VS. ETERNAL

2 Cor 4:18

{*proskairos*} *Temporal*

1. for a season
2. enduring only for a while
3. Temporary

{*aiōnios*} *Eternal*

1. without beginning and end, that which always has been and always will be
2. without beginning
3. without end, never to cease, everlasting

GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

God is outside of time, seeing all of history as a single moment (Isaiah 46:10). He knows the beginning and end of all things, and His plans are not bound by human concepts of time (Isaiah 57:15).

GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

Is 46:10 [For Him, but a Moment]

Declaring the end from the beginning,

And from ancient times things that are not
yet done,

Saying, 'My counsel shall stand,

And I will do all My pleasure,'

GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

Is 57:15

For thus says the High and Lofty One

Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:

HUMAN PERSPECTIVE

Human perspective: Humans experience time as a sequence of events, with a beginning, middle, and end. **We are limited to our current moment**, and our understanding of time is influenced by our mortality (Ecclesiastes 3:2).

HUMAN PERSPECTIVE

Ecc 3:2

Human life divided into:

1. Seasons
2. ...Years, Months, Hours, Minutes...
3. Moments

HUMAN PERSPECTIVE

Ecc 3:9-10

9 What profit has the worker from that in which he labors? 10 I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also **He** has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

TIME IS FINITE

Time for each of us is finite (Ps 90:9-12)

9 For all our days have passed away in Your wrath;

We finish our years like a sigh. 10 The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

11 Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath. 12 So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

WHAT MAKES A COMMODITY PRECIOUS?

Limited supply [**scarce**]

Perceived value [**highly sought after**]

Proof of Work [**difficult to obtain/replace**]

Precious commodities: [Tangible/Fungible]

Gold, Oil, Water, ...

... Knowledge, Expertise [Wisdom], or TIME

WHICH IS MORE PRECIOUS?

Gold:

- Supply increases at 2%/yr
- 1oz today (~\$2700) will be worthless in 50 years by means of supply circulation growth
- This is similar to holding a slowly melting ice cube. *Solid—Liquid—Vapor—Gone*

WHICH IS MORE PRECIOUS?

An ever expanding supply causes an ever decreasing value to the commodity

Gold, paper dollars, stocks, clothing, homes, even land to some extent expand in supply.

WHICH IS MORE PRECIOUS?

TIME for each of us is exceedingly
Precious...

Supply: fixed supply = scarce

Perceived value: gen. always seeking more

Difficulty: limits allotted by God, no amount
of work by man expands the supply

Unique to time: less = greater value

PS 90:12

Teach to number our days... that we may...

[KJV] ... **Apply** our hearts unto wisdom.

[NKJV] ... **Gain** heart of wisdom.

[NASB] ... **Present** to YOU a heart of W.

“The art of spending time wisely.” -RD

ECCONOMICS OF TIME

High Time Preference (immediate grat.)

-use earnings for immediate consumption

-no savings

-borrow debt for social status signaling

-**EMPHASIS** on **HERE** and **NOW**

ECCONOMICS OF TIME

Low Time Preference (delayed grat.)

-delayed enjoyment of time or earnings

-set aside E. to:

-pay future self/improve living cond.

-long term goals (improving knowledge,
building rare skills, willing to do hard work

-EMPHASIS on FUTURE

Christian Economics of Time

- ❖ What is your preference for time like?
- ❖ Do you have a High Time preference?
 - Prefer personal use of time for self indulgence?
 - How much time is left for investing into magnifying the Glory of God?
- ❖ Do you have a Low Time Preference?
 - Choosing to delay gratification?
 - Denying self to rather invest for a magnified value of eternity with God by and by?

SPIRITUAL HTP

Lk 12:16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. **17** And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ **18** So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. **19** And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry.”’ **20** But God said to him, ‘Fool! **This night** your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ **21** “*So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.*”

SPIRITUAL LTP

Mt 6:19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where **moth and rust destroy** and where **thieves break in and steal;** **20** but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

CHRONOS ... KEEPING GOOD TIME

Mt 2:7 Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them **what time the star appeared.**

16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

CHRONOS ... KEEPING GOOD TIME

Mt 25:1-13

- Ten Virgins (5 foolish, 5 wise)
- foolish (did not prepare for the duration)
- wise (prepared extra just in case)
- Bridegroom delayed (unexpected event)
- At midnight (the exact time)
- wise: those who were ready went in
- foolish: the door was shut
- WATCH:** You know not the day nor the hour

“This is a hard saying”

❖ This slide is a reminder for me

- To warn you that on the next slide I plan to make an application that may sound harsh to you.
- And I admit it is harsh.
- It is something I still work at becoming better with
- We are blessed to have brethren that help us see our blind-spots, and encourages us to do better.

“This is a hard saying”

- ❖ Imagine we are the ten virgins (the church)
- ❖ If Christ were to return at the beginning of services with the opening prayer... What side of the door would you be on?
- ❖ Realize: If you are coming up the drive with 3 minutes till start ... **YOU ARE LATE**
 - Why?
- ❖ Remember, the foolish did not expect Christ to delay
- ❖ Unexpected things happen from time to time
- ❖ When the unexpected happens every week it may be time to reevaluate how much time is needed

Our meeting is valuable and precious!

- ❖ Each time we meet we have fewer opportunities ahead of us
- ❖ Fewer moments of fellowship to practice expressing our love for God
- ❖ Each occasion holds greater value compared to the previous (decr. supply)
- ❖ What can we do to help us all be here at the appointed time?
- ❖ How can we make the most of **This time?**

CHRONOS: WATCH YOUR TIME

“Watch your thoughts, they become words;

Watch your words, they become actions;

Watch your actions, they become habits;

Watch your habits, they become character;

Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny [eternity]”

—Frank Outlaw 1977

DON'T SELL SHORT

- “We fall short when we exchange God’s glory for something of lesser value.” -rd
- Selling your time and energy for worthless endeavors
- Anything/everything which does not leverage your valuable time to God’s glory is selling short.
- Selling God’s long-suffering, mercy, and gift of His son short, in exchange for temp goods.

ARE YOU A MAXI?

Maxi = maximalist

Phil 3:8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the **excellence** of the knowledge of **Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whom I have **suffered the loss of all things**, and count them as **rubbish**, that I may gain Christ

[KAIROS] ... SEIZE THE MOMENT

Eph 5:15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as **wise**, **16 making the best use** of the **time**, because the days are evil. **17** Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. **18** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but **be filled** with the Spirit, **19 addressing** one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing** and **making** melody to the Lord with your heart, **20 giving** thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **21 submitting** to one another **out of reverence** for Christ.

[KAIROS] ... SEIZE THE MOMENT

Rom 13:11 Besides this you know [that **now** it is **high time**], that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For **salvation is nearer to us now** than when we first believed. 12 The night is far gone; **the day is at hand**. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and **make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires**.

KAIROS ... SIEZE SALVATION

2Cor 6:1 Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, **now** is the **favorable time**; behold, **now is the day of salvation.**

Are you willing to miss on out this moment?

❖ Mt 7:7 **“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!**