

Now Is The Time Series

#2 - "God Is In Control of Time"

Jan. 9, 2005 (AM) - Daniel 2:21

Introduction

Time is a very amazing thing. Time is a continuum. It cannot stop and start; that is, except when God wants it to do so.

So, today we want to consider time and the fact that God is in control of it. God is the Lord of it. Jesus became subject to it when he came to the earth; for the Bible says in Ga 4:4 *But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,*

For our text today we will consider Daniel 2:21 and several other scriptures. Let's notice what it says:

Da 2:21 *And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:*

I. THE CHANGING OF TIME, 21a

- A. We have already considered that time is constantly changing. One day is not quite like the day before, and tomorrow will not be like today. Someone said, "The times, they are a changing."
- B. But we must consider that God is the one who changes the times and the time.
- C. Every time a second clicks on the clock, it is God who makes the reality of that time to be so. Clocks and calendars are only representations of what God is doing. So, the next time you look at a calendar, remember the reality of time and that God is the author of it. Every time you look at a clock, let it remind you that God is at work changing the time.
- D. Notice there was a beginning of time.
 1. The Bible begins with the phrase "In the beginning" Only three scriptures have this phrase "in the beginning" representing the beginning of time.
 - a. Joh 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
 - b. Joh 1:2 *The same was in the beginning with God.*
 - c. Heb 1:10 *And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:*
 2. Now we know that God existed before the beginning. He is not limited to the creation of time. Time had to be created, because time did not exist before God created it when he created the heavens and the earth.
 3. We could also study the phrase "from the beginning," which we will not do; because it would take too much time. Only one scripture quoted here: Ac 15:18 *Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.*
- E. Notice, secondly, that God has planned all things within the realm of time
 1. We have just noticed Acts 15:18 *Known unto God are all his works from the*

beginning of the world.

2. Read here Isaiah 40:22-26

F. Notice, thirdly, that time has an end.

1. Joh 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.
2. Re 10:6 And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:

G. There are two characteristics of time:

1. The Action of Time.

- a. This is the characteristic of things that happen as we live in time. Kings are set up and cast down; seasons come and go
- b. Ge 8:22 *While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.; things grow; things live; things die. Shakespear said it this way: Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow creeps in this petty pace from day to day.*

2. The Delay of Time.

- a. Some things are delayed in time. 2 Pet. 2:3 *And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.* The wicked are not being punished now, but their judgment is sure. It is being delayed, but one day it will be executed by God's mighty hand.
- b. The vengeance on the martyr's blood is delayed Re 6:11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they [were], should be fulfilled.
- c. One day there will be no more delay. Re 10:6 *And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:* When John says there will be time no longer, he is intimating that there will be no more a delay in God's execution of judgment.

II. THE CHANGING OF KINGS, 21b

- A. Who knows how many kings have reigned from the beginning of time? How many more kings shall rule over countries of the earth before the end of time?
- B. We have record of many kings both in divine scripture and also in profane history. God also gave prophecies concerning certain kings.
- C. Notice what our text says, *he removeth kings, and setteth up kings.*
- D. It may be difficult for us to understand that human effort is always involved in putting a ruler in position, but ultimately it is God who makes that change. We may as well understand today that God is in charge.

Dan. 4:35 *And all the inhabitants of the earth [are] reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and [among] the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him,*

- E. There are so many questions that we a mere humans have concerning what God does, such as:
 1. Why did God allow Egypt to enslave the Hebrew people?
 2. Why did God order the Israelites to slay all of the people in Canaan?
 3. Why did God allow someone like Hitler to rule?
 4. Some wonder why God allowed Bill Clinton to be president for eight years; and then some wonder why he allowed Ronald Reagan to be president for eight years.
- F. These are all God's choices. We cannot compare ourselves with God. He is the Master of the universe. He is the Great First Cause. He is the original intuition. He is the only *a priori*.
- G. So, if you have a desire to be a leader in the world, you might be well to know that God may have something to do with that.
- H. Some even detest the idea that God could have that much power and that he is that sovereign; but if God were not sovereign, just think of how great a confusion there would be on this earth. If God were not ruling from Heaven, what would we poor, feeble, ignorant humans do?
- I. I am certainly glad to know that someone is in charge. Even though we as humans do not always like what God does, we must realize that he is working out all things for our good and to his glory.
- J. Because God is in charge and sets up our rulers, he demands that we give due respect, honor and obedience to them. Rom. 13:1 *Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*
- K. Remember that he does not only set up rulers; he also removes them.
 1. I am certainly glad that he removed Hitler and some of the other horrible leaders in our world.
 2. Sometimes people are very happy when their ruler dies, because he or she is so corrupt and evil.
 3. Pr 29:2 *When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.*
- L. I am so glad that God is in charge of time. How would you like to be in charge of time? How would you like to be in charge of making sure the moon moves at just the right speed and the sun shines at just the right distance from the earth and that the seasons are right on time? My forgetter is so good that I leave one room to go to another and forget why I did it. Sometimes I forget where I am going and get on the wrong road. I forget what time it is and miss an appointment. I forget what I am doing and cut myself or hurt myself some way. Sometimes I even forget that God is in charge of my life and watches me and cares for me every day, and I worry unnecessarily. Some people forget that God is their Comfort and surety. Some forget that they are purged from their old sins. Boy, I am glad that God is in charge of time, aren't you?
- M. Now let us look at the last section of this scripture:

III. THE CHANGING OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE, 21c

- A. Solomon asked for wisdom and knowledge, as you know. God gave him wisdom and knowledge as he asked, and he also gave Solomon wealth, which eventually led him away from his love of God.
- B. So, beginning with Solomon, we must realize that wisdom and knowledge both come

from God.

- C. Solomon was given wisdom and knowledge from God, but he did not handle it very well. He allowed his wives (plural) to lead him away from his dedication to God.
- D. Now God gives wisdom for each generation. I have often wanted to be like some of the old preachers that I have know. They seemed to me to be stalwarts of the faith and strong in delivery and purpose. Yet, God gives wisdom for this very generation in which we live. As time goes on, God will not leave us without wisdom and knowledge.
- E. Now the Bible says that knowledge shall be increased. Notice now: Da 12:4 *But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, [even] to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.*
 - 1. Daniel is to “shut up” the words and seal the book, the book that he is writing.
 - a. You didn’t know that the Bible said “shut up,” did you?
 - b. We, of course, this does not mean to be quiet but to close up or to bring to a stopping point.
 - c. At the end of what we know as Chapter 12 of Daniel, God was finished speaking his prophecy to Daniel. Now, that is interesting in view of the fact that a 13th chapter was added later as a part of the Apocrypha or “doubtful book.” This is a legend of Bel and the Dragon. I only wish I had time to read a portion of it to you, but you can find it on the internet or in bookstores.
 - d. The book of Daniel was to be “shut up,” or closed. No one was to add to it.
 - 2. The book of Daniel was to be sealed. This word also means to be stopped or to close up. Nothing is to be added to this book. It is to stay as it is until the end of time.
 - 3. Now when Daniel says that many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased, he is speaking, not of cute inventions or mathematical formula. He is speaking of the knowledge of God. Men and women will go to and fro on the earth, spreading population throughout the world, and the knowledge of God will be increased. He is speaking of the New Testament apostles as they travel throughout the world preaching the Gospel. Just look at the journeys of the apostle Paul.
 - 4. The apostles traveled to and fro, and the knowledge of God was increased by their writing down the finishing words of the Bible. Then, in the book of Revelation, John wrote the final words of God’s revelation to man. That is the reason he says in Re 22:18 *For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:*
 - 5. God revealed his word man by man, piece by piece until it was all revealed over 1500 years by 40 writers. His word is complete today. We know that we are living in the end time, because God’s word is finished. Knowledge has increased to the place where no one has any excuse not knowing about Jesus Christ and the truth of God.
- F. What is the source of this wisdom and knowledge?
 - 1. Only one verse is needed here: Col 2:3 *In whom (Christ) are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*
 - 2. The Greek word for “hid” is APOKRUPHOS and means either to hide or to store up. In this case it means that the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are stored up in Jesus Christ.
 - 3. This is our source or wisdom and knowledge: not college, not training, not reading

or learning from profane literature, but accepting the truth from Jesus Christ. Only in him are stored up the treasures of wisdom and knowledge; and only one book is his revealed word—the Bible. These 66 books reveal the nature, character, power and work of Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

God is in control of time. How much time do we have? How long a life will God give each one of us to learn of his wisdom and knowledge? How long will God give us to serve him and to make an impression upon the world?

I was looking at a picture of my uncle, Bernie Wolfe, the other day; and on the back of the picture it had his name and the dates 1895 - 1952. My son said that one day he went into work, and one of the men he worked with said to the men working there, "How are you living your dash?" They did not know what he was talking about until he explained that the dash is the time between your birth and your death. Every time you visit a cemetery and look at the stones, you will notice that little dash on the stone. That dash is the only thing that matters. It does matter when you were born or when you die. What does matter is that little dash between the dates. This is your life.

David said in Psalm 39:5 *Behold, thou hast made my days [as] an handbreadth; and mine age [is] as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state [is] altogether vanity. Slah.*

What will you do with your days? Will you tarry on and on without trusting in Jesus Christ? Will you go on and on making light of the kingdom of God and being lazy in his service? God has made your days as a handbreadth. The time is going faster and faster. Job said in Job 7:6 *My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle ...*

Today may be the last day for you. Only God knows. He has made your days with a beginning and an end. All of the vitamins and all the king's horses and all the king's men and all the exercise and diets in the world cannot add one day to your life.

James 4:14 *Whereas ye know not what [shall be] on the morrow. For what [is] your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.* Remember, God made time, and God will bring an end to it, and you will die in his own time.

John 9:4 *I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.* What you do, you must do today. I will keep telling you that until you get the message – today!