

## "KNOWING THE TIMES"

I Chro. 12:32

"Men that had an understanding of the times."

To know what Israel ought to do.

## INTRODUCTION:

This is the secret of greatness.

- A. (Great warriors) - have clearly understood when to move foreward and when to retreat.
- B. (Inventors) sensed the need of the hour - give inventions at proper time.
- C. (Leaders) understand there is time for action or refrain from action.
- D. (Politicians) know he is a fanatic to live only in future, or live in past.  
He must be the man of the hour or he will fail. *Pres. Carter - Bapt. P. Ryan Dismissed Christ.  
Anderson - Presbyterian.*
- E. (Days of possibilities) - money is poured out to those in need at this present time.

This is a time to reach out to others. St. Peter, instructed by Jesus."When Thou art converted strengthen Thy brethren."Find Bible N. T. - Hebrews 11:32-40.Read Bible O. T. - I Chro. 11:17-18.Three of David's mighty men broke rank - Philistines; secure water, pours out.David longed for old days, peace, happiness around well.

After surgery people cry for water - one spoon full of ice - you have favorite drinking water.

Benaiah, one of the three mighty men - V. 22. Slew a lion in a pit on a snowy day.

Eleazar, who's hand claved unto the sword when the battle was over, David stood in a field full of lentils crying out in the name of the Lord. The Lord, wrought a great victory that day! (2 Sam. 23:10-12) Account of another of David's mighty men.

I Chron. 11 is the account of aggressive service for the King.

I Chron. 12 a picture of the mighty men going to Hebron for his coronation. These men were distinguished for different reasons.

I Chro. 12:2 - They were armed with bows and could use both the right hand and the left in hurling stones and in shooting arrows from the bow.

Some of us scarcely know we have a left hand.

Baseball - some bat from right or left side of plate - a switch hitter.

✓ Need all faculties in the warfare - use both hands in the Master's Work.

I Chron. 12:8 Read - "The Gadites there separated themselves unto David into the hold to the wilderness men of might, and men of war fit for the battle, that could handle shield and buckler, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as the roes upon the mountains."



These men were tested and tried.

They had been in battle and had enthusiasm. This is sorely needed today in the church of Jesus Christ.

How much we need the experience of the men who can pray and know their Bible well. It is one thing to have a shield and buckler - quite another thing to know how to use it.

The man who knows his Bible today and understands secret prayer will be victorious in his work for God.

I Chro. 12:38 reads "this man of war, that could keep rank, came with a perfect heart to Hebron, to make David King over all Israel, and all the rest also of Israel were of one heart to make David King."

V. 33 - They were men who were able to keep rank, which means that they were able to march in step, (each) moving with the (other). Each helping the other with his presence!

This is needed in the church today. Men of perfect heart - not double-hearted. "This one thing I do", Paul.

I Chro. 12:32 - some of the men of Issachar, "which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do."

Not know if they were political. They revealed to David this particular time in history.

Not speculate about them, yet learn how important that men should know the times in which they live.

Great days in which we are living. Never such an opportunity to work for God as present time!

God requires all there is of us and each must do his work in one Spirit.

Simply use both hands, keep rank, march without confusion, labor with perfect heart, get an understanding of our times.

The times in which we live demand strong declarations regarding some great principles:

## I. SIN

There must be a strong declaration on sin! If sin is simply a mistake or error - there is no sense of guilt; no cry for pardon.

Bible says: I John 3:4 - Sin is a transgression of the law.

I John 5:17 - All unrighteousness is sin.

John 16:9 - Sin is unbelief.

This is chief of sins - indifference to God's love, the death of Christ, and pleading of spirit. Unbelief closes the door of hope. Separates us from God, makes a person hopeless, undone condition.

Sin is sure of its work and is certain of its punishment. Sin separates us from each other. Dangerous to trifle with for one moment.



(Awful days) in which we live - greed - graft - scandal in high life - failure in men of prominent positions.

Rom. 1 - Paul gives realistic description and if writing today would intensify it.

## II. SAVIOUR

The times demands there shall be no uncertain declaration regarding the deity of Jesus and the meaning of his death on the cross.

He only is able to save and there must be no subtraction from his cross.

Man wanted to climb the Matterhorn. Many people offered to be his guide for pay. But he was shrewd, saying "show me your papers first." Those not real guides fell back, the real guides showed him papers, they had taken other men safely to the top and returned.

All I want to know about Jesus Christ in these times is "Can He save?"

I can ask Moody, Spurgeon, Hadley, Sunday, Gladstone, McKinnedy, Truit, Scarborough, Graham and all respond "He is able to save to the uttermost."

James Russell Lowell replied to those critical of Jesus: "Go find me a place where decent men can live in decency, comfort, security, educate his children, where age is revered, infancy respected, womanhood honored and human life held in high regard -- when skeptics can find such a place 10 miles square on this globe, where the Gospel of Christ has not first cleared the way, I will consider their view.

### III. BIBLE

These are times when we need a strong declaration of the Bible as God's Word.

No criticism can take from us the Bible. "Heaven and earth shall pass away but My Word shall never pass away."

*John Wammanah* "The greatest purchase I ever made was when I was a boy 12 yrs old. I had bought a Bible for \$2.50 that was the greatest purchase, for that Bible made me what I am today." great merchant.

The Bible is for our times. To destroy the Bible you would have to get rid of all copies in all languages, go to all the Libraries of the world and eliminate passages of poetry plus history, go to art galleries and destroy, go to every conservatory of music and silence the Masters, having done all of this - the Bible would still be living! There is another place you would need to destroy. The cemetery! As you go from grave stone to grave stone, you would chisel out the Biblical names of people, passages of Scripture.

Our time needs the Bible and you will never be disappointed in it.

### IV. THE FUTURE

*Nightly men involved -*

The times demands our church help shape the future in the power of Jesus.

Every battle of Israel was settled before it was begun because the people took counsel with God.

We may fall short of our faith, but we shall never go beyond it!

New York City had a mighty task - Old Kingsbridge 272' long, 1100 tons weight, was floated down Harlem River and placed as the middle span of New Fordham Bridge at 207th Street.

Low tide, pontoons were towed up river. Heavy timbers 25' high had been built on



on the Pontooms. The partially filled boats with water lowering 2 foot below normal water line. Placing pontooms in position the water was pumped out.

Engineers waited for the tide. At 12:30 P. M. the span began to rise. Two hours later it was clear by 10 inches. Four tugboats - two before and two behind amid the shriek of whistles and cheers - the span began its journey of 1½ miles, in an hours time Fordham bridge was reached.

You will notice that the engineers simply waited for the tide.

As Christians, the tide is coming in - prepare to take advantage of it.

Let there be no uncertain sound in our teaching - our testimonial.

Augustine's Prayer "a whole Christ for my Saviour, a whole Bible for my counsel, a whole church for my fellowship, a whole world for my field."

This is God's Time, when such a faith, such a hope would move the world - so I present to you Jesus Christ - lay hold of him - there is victory.

If you reject Him, act indifferent to the direction of God you will go unprepared into the future.

"Missed, missed, missed,

For all eternity!

The chance to suffer and bear the cross,

To count all earthly gain but loss,

Missed, missed, missed."

I wish I might sound a new note of victory. Men that had an understanding of

the time - ~~sin~~ - ~~Saviour~~ - ~~Bible~~ - future.

Gained, gained, gained,

Through sorrow, and toil, and loss,

Through treading the way of nail and thorn,

The way of loneliness, shame, and scorn,

The way that leads to the cross.

Gained! Gained! Gained!

The reign with the King, the crown, the glorious lifting up, the rest; the joy  
of the soul who stood the test of the bitter going down.

Gained! Gained! Gained!

What joy for the man who died! Fruit of my sorrow I now have seen. In Thee,  
O Soul - Thou hast faithful been, and my heart is satisfied!

I have been faithful to Christ and truth as I hold it, and have declared no  
uncertain way for our times.

1 Chro 18:6, 13 "And Jehovah gave Victory to David whithersoever  
He went."  
(Revised Standard  
edition of  
Bible)