

ESSENTIAL
NEW TESTAMENT
WORDS

Grace, Gospel, Perseverance, Repentance, Faith, Word, Wisdom, Self-Control, Sacrifice, Time, Sin, Life

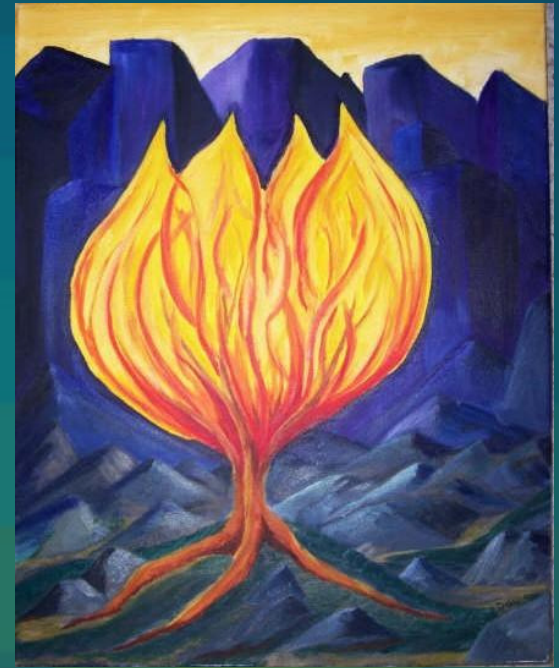
12 New Testament Words Every Christian Should Know
Sanctuary Bible Studies – Spring 2010
Session 2: Time

Two Primary New Testament Words for Time

- Titus 1:1-3: *Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect ... which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time [chronos] and at his appointed season [kairos] he brought his word to light the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior...*
 - **Chronos** is ordinary, sequential time – the ticking of the clock.
 - **Kairos** is a special time ripe with opportunity, a right time, a window of time in which significant events may take place.

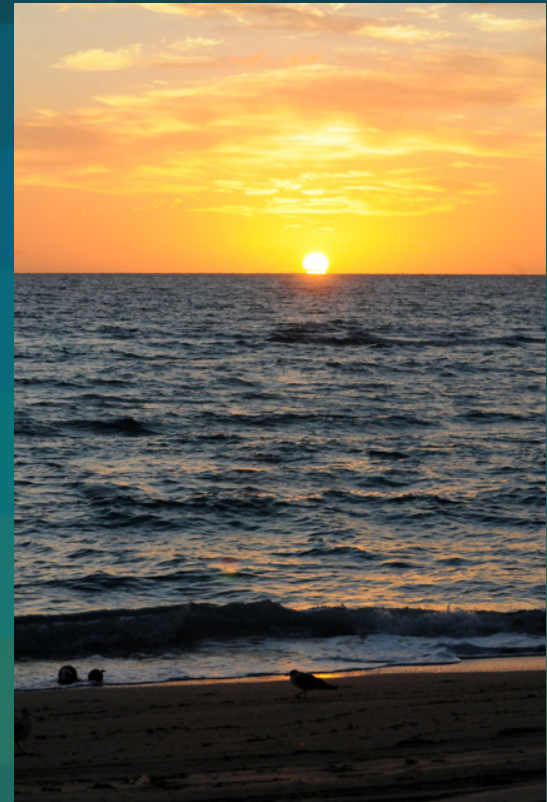
Time in the Old Testament

- What matters about time in the Hebrew Old Testament is what God does. Time is not an independent reality to be filled; rather, it is a sequence of events reaching far from the past and into the future, all on a linear line.
- Time is what happens in sequence. Time is life in its active moments. Technically, there is no Hebrew word for time apart from events. Time for the Hebrews was about action.



Time in the Old Testament

- This linear sense of time shows itself in how ancient Hebrew words used to describe distance and direction are also used to describe time.



Time in the Greek Culture

- In ancient Greek culture time is an independent reality filled with everyday events [*chronos*] and events of unique significance [*kairos*]. Time needs to be filled before it is lost. Opportunities come and need to be seized. Ancient Greeks had a strong sense of cyclical time, history repeating itself, but saw time as fleeting and hard to hold.



Chronos in the New Testament

- Galatians 4:4-5: *4But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, 5to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.*
- Matthew 2:7: *Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.*
- Luke 4:5: *The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.*
- Romans 16:25: *25Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past...*



Kairos in the New Testament

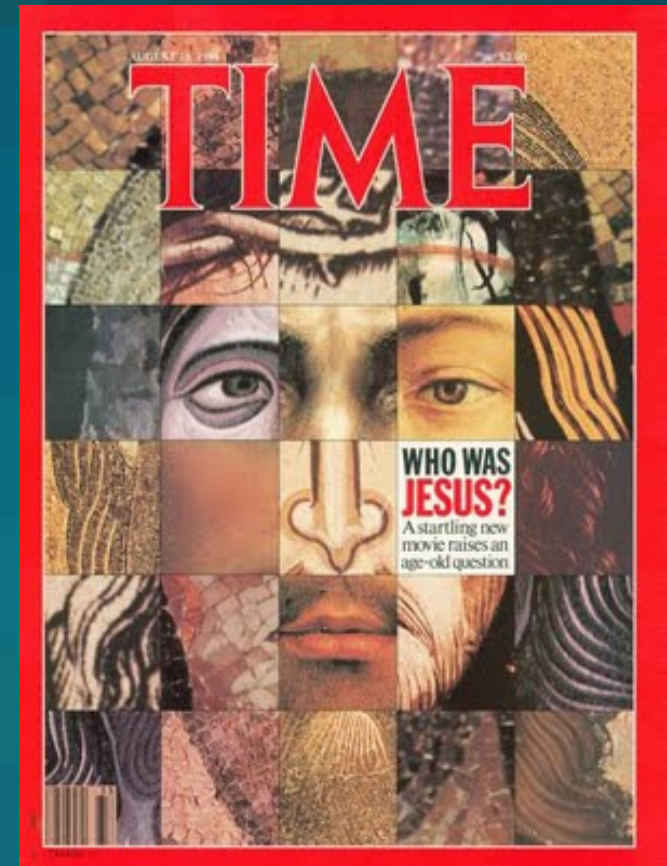
- Matthew 26:18: *He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'"*
- Mark 1:14-15: *14After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"*
- Luke 4:13: *13When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.*
- Romans 5:6: *You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.*

Kairos in the New Testament

- Galatians 6:10: *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*
- Ephesians 5:15-16: *15Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.*
- 1 Peter 1:10-11: *10Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, 11trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.*
- Revelation 12:12

Significance of Time for Christians

- The time of our lives belongs to God. (Ps 31:15, “My times are in your hand.”)
- What you see in time depends on where you stand.
- The coming of Jesus Christ to earth is the single most significant kairos time in the history of the created universe. It is the “Day of the Lord” of the Old Testament, ushering in the kingdom of God and determining the future of all living things.
- Christians, like ancient Hebrews, live with the past in front of them.



Significance of Time for Christians

- Christians need to see when *kairos* intersects with *chronos*. In other words, we need discernment to recognize the movement of God in our lives, providing an amazing moment of opportunity.
- Time is fleeting, yet we all have the same amount of time, 24 hours a day.
- Our use of present tense time is shaped by our understanding of the past and present.
- The urgent is not always important. The important is not always urgent.

