

Stirring up your pure minds by way of remembrance.

2 Peter 3:1 – 13

As Christians we need to be often reminded that God is in control. We need to keep our spiritual minds stirred up to the thinking that God has this. God said in **Ecclesiastes 3:1** *“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:”* the word “season” means an appointed time; therefore, we must conclude that God has an appointed time for every event and happening on this earth and through all time. The Lord went on to say through the pen of the Preacher in **Ecclesiastes 3:17** *“I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work.”* Nothing “just happens” God has a reason and purpose for everything. People often blame God for things when we ought to blame ourselves, because our sinfulness brings about these judgments of God. God is not required to be merciful nor is He required to be gracious; it is His will and pleasure to do so.

As Christians we need to keep our spiritual hearts and minds stirred up in the truth of God’s word and not get caught up in the world’s wicked thinking. Everything happens because God has ordained it, and it all happens for God’s purpose. We must never forget that our God is the Sovereign over all creation. Job wrote in **Job 23:13** *“But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? and what his soul desireth, even that he doeth.”* The Lord told the Prophet Daniel in the closing of his letter after God had told him many things about the end of time, **Daniel 12:9** *“And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.”* These things are God’s appointed time and happenings during those times. They are only known to whoever God reveals them. As Christians we must understand, always remember, and never forget, that God is Sovereign and in control of time.

A. God and His Mercy.

1. God had a plan and ordained that plan before the world began, He is the Omniscient God. That is, He is all wise, all knowing, and all seeing, God knows every detail of everything, period!
2. Mercy and even grace is not earned, nor should it be expected, because it is a gift.
3. God chose Israel, Israel did not choose God. It is not natural for mankind to choose God. **Malachi 3:6** *“For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.”*

4. God ordained an exact time for the flooding of the earth, **Genesis 6:3** “*And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.*” God gave 120 years of mercy, after it expired then God destroyed mankind.
 5. This also means that God never failed of a promise. **1 Kings 8:56** “*Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.*” Nor has God left or forsaken us, His elected people.
 6. **Joshua 21:45** “*There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.*”
- B. God has given a time of salvation, again mercy.
1. Remember God said in Gen. 6:3 “*...My spirit shall not always strive with man...*” meaning God’s mercy and grace is not unlimited.
 2. This is why there must be an urgency to the churches work, getting the gospel to every creature.
 3. God said in **Luke 21:24** “*And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*” The Gentile’s time ends when Jesus returns.
 4. **Romans 11:25** “*For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.*”
 5. God said in Gen. 6:3 “*...My spirit shall not always strive with man...*” God is merciful, He is gracious, but He will not forever be!
 6. **Acts 13:47-48** “*For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.*” – by getting the gospel to the Gentile world and also to the Jews.
 7. The only way to be saved is by hearing the Gospel message. But, that time is closing, Jesus is coming.

8. **2 Corinthians 6:1 - 2** *“We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. (2) (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”* – The embassy of grace or that preaching or that unspeakable gift of Christ for salvation by grace.

C. In The Old Testament God gave the light to Israel.

1. Mercy is the way of the light. To know God, we must walk in the light. **Ephesians 5:8** *“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:”* – even believers that walk in darkness doesn’t walk with God. These people walk in spiritual darkness or in ignorance of God’s Truth,
2. **1 Thessalonians 5:4 - 5** *“But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. (5) Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.”* Remember Israel, while God gave them so much grace and mercy, they still walked in darkness, have Christians not learned anything from them?
3. Mercy is for today. Jesus brought the Gentiles light.
4. Listen to Jesus, **John 3:19-21** *“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov’d. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.”* – God broke off the branches of the tree of Israel, He ingrafted Gentiles and made them part of the spiritual Israel tree, and many Christian Gentiles are not grateful.

D. The day of mercy and grace to the lost is coming to an abrupt end.

1. **2 Thessalonians 1:7-10** *“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.”*

2. **2 Peter 3:10** *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”*
3. **Luke 21:36** *“Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”*