

Kingdom Impact: Discerning The Times



1 Chronicles 12:32

- We are living in the last days. The Last days or the End times points to the end of this present age, and the days before the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- We are witnessing both the fulfillment of God's promises and the advancement of His Glorious Kingdom in the earth.
- We are witnessing an increase in lawlessness in today's society. (Proverbs 14:34, Matthew 24:12-13, Luke 7:21-23, 1 John 3:1-8)
 - a. Lawlessness means being without law. It is the rejection and disobedience to the will and command of God.
 - b. It's a state of sin and rebellion against God.
- We are witnessing a spiritual decline in our society and in the Church. (Proverbs 14:34, 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 1 John 2:15-17, 2 Chronicles 7:14, Hebrews 10:25)
 - a. There is a spiritual detachment from Jesus Christ, His Word and the Church.
 - b. Our society, churches, homes, schools and communities are suffering because of it.
- We are witnessing a rise in false teachers and false teaching. (2 Corinthians 11:12-15, Matthew 7:15-20, 24:1, 1 John 4:1, 2 Peter 2:1-3)
- We are witnessing wars and rumors of wars. (Matthew 24:6)
- We are witnessing nations rise against nations, kingdoms against kingdoms. And famines, pestilence, and earthquakes in various places. (Matthew 24:7)
- We are witnessing persecution in different parts of the world. (Matthew 5:11-12, John 15:18-25, 2 Timothy 3:11-12)
- This is happening on the Church's watch!! We shouldn't be surprised! We should be prepared and ready to accomplish God's Kingdom purpose in the earth.
- Purpose: To increase our level of awareness and sensitivity to God while living in these last and evil days.
- Goal: To teach us what God expects from us and how we can be effective for His Kingdom.
- Spiritual Principles: Authority, Organization, Agreement, Obedience, Faith, Grace

1. The word “Transformed” means – changed, converted, fashioned, rearranged, graciously improved upon, spiritually mature, fit and developed.
2. The word “Kingdom” means – rule, reign, and authority of God.
3. The word “Impact” means – effect or influence of one person, thing or action upon another. It also can mean collision, violent shock, or force between two or more things.
4. The biblical application of the word “reset” means a necessary change, to pivot, turn, forsake, forget, test stability, and to recommit to God’s original purpose and plan for your life.

A. In the Book of 1 Chronicles 12:32, says, “Of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command.”

- (Genesis 30:16-18) – God blessed Jacob and Leah with their fifth son and she called his name Issachar.
- (Numbers 26:23-25) – Issachar had four sons. Tola (the family of the Tolaites), Puah (the family of Punites), Jashub (the family of Jashubites), Shimron (the family of Shimronites). The number of Issachar descendants were 64,000.
- (1 Chronicles 7:1-5) – The descendants from the Tribe of Issachar listed by their genealogies were 87,000 in all.
- The sons of Issachar were true warriors from the tribe of Israel.
- The sons of Issachar were described as “mighty men of valor” who serve David in battle.
- These men were courageous, valiant and heroic men.
- (2 Samuel 5:1-5, 1 Chronicles 11) – The tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron (a city in the hills of Judah, south of Jerusalem) and anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.
- In Hebron he reigned over Judah for seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.
- (1 Chronicles 12) – List the tribes who came to serve David on his kingdom assignment while still a fugitive from Saul.

- All the tribes that joined David at the stronghold in the wilderness were men of valor, skillful with a shield and spear, their face was like faces of lions, and were swift as gazelles on the mountain, expert in war with all weapons of war. (vs. 8, 33)
 - All these men of war who could keep ranks, came to Hebron with a loyal heart, to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest of Israel were of one mind to make David king. (vs. 38)
 - (1 Chronicles 12:32) – The sons of Issachar and all their descendants were mighty men of valor and very skilled warriors like the other tribes.
- What set them apart and made them uniquely different from all the other tribes?
1. The sons of Issachar had the ability to both discern the times and gain clear understanding of what Israel ought to do.
 - The Hebrew word “understand” means knowledge, wisdom, insight, intelligence.
 - The Hebrew word “times” mean the proper time or right season for an event to happen.
 - The Hebrew word “know” means to perceive, to see clearly, to inform, to distinguish between options, to sense or to reveal.
 - The Hebrew words “ought to do” means to prepare, readiness to carry out, to execute, to work, to create or build, to bring into completion, to carry into effect.
 - a. It describes God’s involvement and the believer’s preparation to carry out God’s plan.
2. The word “discern or discernment” means to distinguish, to separate out, diligently search, to test, or examine.
 - The ability to judge between truth and false. It means to make sound decisions that are aligned with the will of God.
 - It requires a process learning and growing spiritually in our relationship with God and His Word.
 - It is the Holy Spirit that helps believers to spiritually discern between the will of God and the will of man (1 Corinthians 2:9-14).

- The Holy Spirit also helps us to discern (try, test, examine, distinguish) every spirit to determine whether they are validated by God or not (1 John 4:1-3).
- The sons of Issachar were prepared to wisely handle the affairs of Israel.
- The word “prepare” means to make ready, to apply, be stable, to be firm, established, be spiritual fit or suitable.
- It speaks highly of a believer’s willingness and eagerness to be ready at all times for God’s Kingdom purposes.
- It also reveals true commitment, devotion, discipline and dedication which are necessary to remain in a state of readiness.

B. What does God expect from every Kingdom believer in the Last days?

1. To walk uprightly before Him. (Psalm 84:11, Proverbs 2:6-9, 3:5-8)
 2. To walk in obedience to His Word. (John 14:15, 23-24, Luke 11:28, 1John 2:17, Isaiah 1:19-20)
 3. To be Salt and Light. (Matthew 5:13-16)
 4. To walk and live by faith. (Hebrews 11:1, 6, 2 Corinthians 5:7, Romans 1:17, Romans 10:17, Hebrews 10:38)
 5. To be people who pray and fast. (Matthew 6:5-6, 17-18, 1Thessalonians 5:17, James 5:13-18, Acts 13:1-3, Mark 9:29)
 6. To know His voice and be led by the Holy Spirit. (John 10:5, 27-28, 16:13, Romans 8:14)
 7. To seek His wisdom to effectively discern the times and understand what His will is. (James 1:5, Ephesians 5:17, Romans 12:1-3)
- As true believers we must have a greater awareness about God and what He wants to accomplish through His Body, His Church and His children.
 - This is the hour that the believer’s life must be influenced and directed by the Holy Spirit.
 - The Holy Spirit is the believer’s source of our power and direction. Without the Holy Spirit and God’s Word the believer will lose power and direction for their lives. (2 Timothy 3:5)

- This is the hour that we must become that Church that is Kingdom driven. A body of believers that is God focused, Christ-centered, Spirit-led, and grounded in the Word of God.
- This is the time and season where we must get back to seeking the face of God again through prayer and study of His Word. (2 Timothy 2:15)
 - For (2) two reasons:
 - 1) To bring glory and honor to God. (1 Corinthians 10:31, Colossians 3:17, 23-24)
 - 2) To accomplish Christ's mission in the earth. (Matthew 9:35-38)
- 8. The believer must lead by example by not walking in fear but faith and dependency on God. (2 Corinthians 5:7, 2 Timothy 1:7)
 - The believer must become the Word which is a testament of our faith in Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 3:2-3, Hebrews 11:1, 6)
- 9. The believer must be ready to "preach or proclaim" the gospel no matter the time or the season. (2 Timothy 4:1-5)
 - God expects us to be prepared in and out of season, to make a stand, to continue on even when facing difficulty and challenges in your life.
 - God expects us to keep a sense of urgency, and not to waste any opportunities to share your faith in Jesus Christ with others.
 - God expects us to correct, rebuke, exhort or encourage through patience and teaching or instructions from the Word of God.
 - God expects us to be watchful, alert, and prayerful in all things. (vs. 5, 1 Corinthians 10:12, Matthew 6:5-7, 1 Thessalonians 5:17)
 - God expects us to endure afflictions or hardship, difficulty, trouble, and trials that come into our lives. (vs. 5, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18)
 - God expects us to do the work of an evangelist. We should have a passion to win souls for Jesus Christ. (vs. 5, Proverbs 11:30, Mark 16:15, Galatians 6:1)
 - God expects us to fulfill every assignment that He has given and entrusted to our hands. (vs. 5, Acts 4:29-35, Philippians 4:13)
 - God expects every Kingdom believer to be ready and prepared to respond precisely and effectively. (John 16:7, 14:16-17, 24-27)

- C. The Apostle Paul makes clear what every believer should expect in these last and evil days before Jesus Christ returns. (2 Timothy 3:1-5)
1. Apostle Paul calls it perilous times. “Perilous means terrible times, difficult, troublesome, trying, uneasy, hard, violent, and dangerous times and days.
 2. People will be lovers of themselves. (1 John 3:17)
 - They will be selfish and self-centered.
 - They will put there will before God’s will.
 - They will seek to fulfill their desires no matter if lives are hurt or destroyed.
 3. People will be lovers of money. (Mark 8:36, 1 Timothy 6:10, Luke 12:15, Hebrews 13:5, Jeremiah 17:11)
 - They will focus on money instead of God.
 - They will want more and more, never satisfied with what they have.
 4. People will be boasters. (1 Corinthians 1:30-31, Revelation 3:17, James 4:16, Jeremiah 9:23)
 - They love to boast of themselves and their possessions.
 5. People will be proud. (Proverbs 16:18, James 4:6-7, 1 Peter 5:6-7)
 - They will be arrogant, and conceited.
 6. People will be blasphemers. (Psalm 74:17, Ephesians 4:29, James 3:8-9, 4:11)
 - They will be abusive in the way of insults, slander, reproach, and cursing.