

"Issachar's Burden"

"understanding the times...to know what to do"

01/03/11



A TIME FOR OBEDIENCE?

We hear a lot today about "the sons of Issachar". They were known for their ability to "understand the times, to know what to do". In every generation, we are faced with the need for the reality of understanding the times and what to do. **We are living in a moment of time in which it is imperative that we act with understanding and wisdom in relation to the massive changes that are being presented to us,** in the world and in the church.

In the New Testament, there are two words commonly used for "time". The first is "chronos" which refers to the general flow of time. The second is "kairos" which refers to an appointed time for a specific purpose. The nature of "kairos" demands an accurate and deliberate response for its purpose to be fulfilled. A "kairos" moment in the church is a specific portion of time through which God moves by His Spirit to achieve a particular purpose, demanding an accurate and deliberate response from the sons of God.

Our first responsibility for a "kairos" moment is to acknowledge it is here, and secondly, we are expected to enter into personal obedience in relation to that time. For some time now, we have been hearing a trumpet voice of the Spirit that we are in a "new season". There has been a fundamental shift in our thinking over the course of the last few years. It is now a time to enter into the reality of what we have been hearing. **It is a time for obedience, a time which demands a decisive, deliberate and accurate response to what God is now doing in the earth.**

The last season has been a time of great separation. In this season, we were faced with many decisions, many of them seeming to be irrelevant, but having great consequences as they have proven whether or not we are in reality under the rule of the kingdom of God. Sadly, much of what we have done in the last season has been the result of "building our ministry". This is reflected in our personal decision as to how we "serve the Lord" with the outflow of our life. The way into the kingdom of God is narrow, and **our day by day, moment by moment, real life decisions reveal whether or not we are putting the kingdom of God first.**

We are experiencing a separation every time there is a test of our loyalty – in relation to our career, our money, our family, our time, or our affections. The call of God on our life as sons does not always agree with these competing loyalties. If we truly follow the Lord, "the cares of this life" will be regularly denied as we are learning to lay down our

life to take up the life of our King. At issue is in whether or not we are exiting the last season and entering into the new season. Have we come to the reality of acknowledging Him as our King in the daily realities of our life? The answer to this question is at the root of discovering whether or not we are entering into obedience. **If we want to experience more of the reality of the kingdom in our daily life, we must cooperate with the separated life the Holy Spirit is bringing us into in this day.**

We have been hearing this call for separation from anything that would keep us from fulfilling the will of our Father in the earth. We are in the beginning of the fulfillment of what is known as the Feast of Tabernacles. We have been in the first stage of that feast known as the Feast of Trumpets. During this time, the call has gone out for the church to prepare herself for the Lord. An Elijah anointing has manifested, calling us to repentance, humility, intimacy and maturity. All of this is in preparation for the next stage of this feast, the Day of Atonement.

As the last season has been a time of separation, **this new season is a time of realignment.** Decisions and choices made in the last season and in the beginning of this new season are determining alignment in the body of Christ. Past loyalties and relationships are coming under tension and duress as **our Lord is beginning to align us for proper kingdom order.** Those who refuse to yield to the will of God for their life and who allow “the cares of this life” to control them will find themselves reassigned according to these choices.

The Day of Atonement is about the church coming to maturity and entering into the fullness of what has been provided for her in the two previous feasts fulfilled in the church – the Feast of Passover and the Feast of Pentecost. In Passover, we have experienced a relationship with our Lord, Jesus the Christ. In Pentecost, we have experienced a relationship with the Holy Spirit. **In Tabernacles, we are moving into an experiential relationship with our Father.**

The prophetic fulfillment of each of these feasts is a “kairos” time in the body of Christ. Now, in this hour, as we move into a more intimate relationship with the Father, we are moving into an apostolic order so that we can realize the fullness of our Father’s purpose in the earth. We are here to represent Him in His fullness.

Before we experience this fullness, **we will see a “harvest” of the last season, a completion of the separation which will more fully prepare us to bow to the rule of God personally, thus positioning us in the body of Christ as He desires.** This will result in a major realignment in the body of Christ. We are going to see the whole body emerge from the obscurity of a wilderness season into the realization of what the suffering and persecution of past years has prepared us for. This “harvest” will be in stark contrast to the one many are clamoring for. Instead of pursuing supernatural phenomena and “revival” in order to build numbers, **we will build relationships with one another.** We will forsake the bondage of the institution for the freedom of the truth. **The heart of what our Father is doing in this day is revealed in our relationships.** To know Him and one another, that is summit we must attain. Let Your Kingdom come!

Richard

