

Redeeming the Time

Ephesians 5:14–17 (NKJV)

¹⁴Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.”

¹⁵See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

¹⁶redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

¹⁷Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

¹⁶redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

- *The Greek word for “redeem” is ἐξαγοράζω exagorazō and it means, “to cause the release or freedom of someone by means which proves costly to the individual causing the release; to make the most of every opportunity; to do something with intensity and urgency.”*
- *“Redeeming the times” –It is necessary for us redeem the time, because we live in evil days and the enemy of our souls will try to cause us to waste the opportunities God gives us daily.*
- *For us to redeem the time requires us to pay the price of living a spiritually disciplined life.*
- *For us to redeem the time means to daily make the most of every opportunity God gives us.*
- *For us to redeem the time means to apply ourselves with intensity and urgency realizing our time and opportunities are limited.*
- *“Awake, you who sleep” – Just as in the natural, for us to use the time we are given each day, we must begin by waking up and getting out of bed, we must also spiritually wake up to the will of God and begin to use the time God has given us to live fruitful lives.*
- *“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise” – We are to be wise and thoughtful in how we live our lives and not to act foolishly by making impulsive and careless decisions.*
- *“Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is” – Every decision needs to be made in the light of the Word of God , so we do not allow compromise and poor decisions to devour our time and energy.*

- *One of the most precious gifts that God has given each living person is time.*
- *God gives each person time so they can respond to the call of salvation and receive Christ.*
- *God gives each believer time to grow into the image of Christ.*
- *God gives each believer time to serve Him to produce eternal fruit.*
- *Life is short, but eternity is long. Act accordingly!*
- *It is so easy to take time for granted. Before we know it, our time has run out.*

Proverbs 24:33–34 (NLT)

³³A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—
³⁴then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber.

- *Time is unique. It is one of the few things that requires no effort for it to be wasted.*
- *Even to waste money requires some degree of effort to spend it, but to waste time all you have to do is nothing.*
- *Many people when they face death regret the things they have done and others regret the things that they have failed to do, but the common denominator is that they didn't use their time wisely.*
- *Yesterday is the past.*
- *Tomorrow is the future.*
- *But today is a gift and that's why it's called the present.*
- *Procrastination is one of the greatest enemies of time – “Why do today what you can put off until tomorrow, because you'll be busy enough tomorrow doing what you should have done yesterday.”*
- *If we put off until tomorrow what we should have done today we will find we will never do it, because we live our lives in the present and not in the future.*

- *The single greatest decision I made that impacted the direction of my spiritual life as a Christian was to take the small step of starting each day with the Lord in prayer and in His Word.*

2 Corinthians 6:2 (NLT)

²For God says, “At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you.” Indeed, the “right time” is now. Today is the day of salvation.

- *“Indeed, the “right time” is now. Today is the day of salvation.” - This is the answer to the question, “When do I start to develop and deepen my relationship with God?”*
- *Don’t allow past failures or regrets to paralyze you from making the right decisions today and moving forward in God’s will for your life.*
- *Many people’s concept of time is very limited and narrow and for this reason they fail to embrace the true value of time.*
- *The Bible provides a complete understanding of time and how to utilize it fully.*
- *There are at least seven Greek words for “time” used in the New Testament, each one giving a distinct understanding and perspective about time.*

Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)

⁹And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

- *The Greek word translated as “season” is καιρός kairos and it speaks about time in terms of a season of time; a specific time; an appointed time; such as “springtime.”*

Romans 5:6 (NKJV)

⁶For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

- *Kairos time is not any random time, but very specific opportunities for certain events to occur.*
- *Jesus Christ didn’t die for our sins at just any random time, but at a very specific moment of time when everything was in place for Him to be the Redeemer for all mankind.*

- *When Israel was first led out of Egypt they could have immediately entered into the Promised Land since it was only a ten-day journey, but because of unbelief and rebellion they failed to respond to their kairos time and instead they wandered in the wilderness for forty years.*
- *When the prophet Elisha told Naaman to dip in the Jordan River seven times for his leprosy to be healed, if Naaman had refused and had gone a year later, nothing would have happened.*
- *If Naaman had gone into the Jordan before he was told, nothing would have happened.*
- *However, Naaman humbled himself and obeyed the word of the Lord at the specific kairos time and the power of God was released in his life.*

1 Chronicles 12:32 (NKJV)

³²of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do,

- *“who had understanding of the times” – The Hebrew word for “time” used here means “the time, point in time; occasion” and it corresponds closely to the Greek word kairos.*
- *The sons of Issachar had discernment to know those special times of God’s visitation. They also knew what they ought to do.*
- *Issachar means, “there is recompense,” and when we recognize the times of God’s visitations and respond accordingly there is great reward.*

Luke 19:44 (NKJV)

⁴⁴and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

- *Israel didn’t know the time (kairos) of their visitation and they rejected Jesus as their Messiah and Saviour with very tragic results.*
- *Probably the most common concept for time is described by the Greek word χρόνος “chronos” and it is what most people would typically think of as time.*

- *“Chronos” refers to chronological or sequential time, for example a marked moment to moment of the clock.*
- *“Chronos” time measures the rates at which physical processes occur whether it is the ticking of a clock, the falling of sand in an hourglass, or the vibration of an atom used in an atomic clock.*
- *A watch or a clock is referred to as a chronometer because it measures “chronos,” the passing of time.*
- *Someone defined “chronos” time as “God’s way of not having everything happening all at once.”*

Matthew 2:7 (NKJV)

⁷Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared.

- *“what time the star appeared” – This is an example of “chronos,” defining the occurrence of an event based on its chronological sequence.*
- *When a person is lying on their deathbed, we can say that their “chronos” time has come to an end.*
- *The other word for time that is like a bookend to “chronos” time is “αἰών” aīōn time.*
- *Aion means, “an age, an era, a period of infinite duration – eternity, forever.” It can also mean “without time!” From it, we derived our English word “eon.”*

John 6:51 (NKJV)

⁵¹I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

- *“he will live forever” – This is the word “aion.” To live for eternity, to live without an end.*

John 3:16 (ESV)

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

- *The word for “eternal” is an adjective that comes from the Greek word “aion.” One aspect of eternal life is that “chronos” never comes to an end—we live forever.*
- *Understanding both “chronos” time and “aion” time will help us address a question that unbelievers often pose, “Who created God?” “Where did God come from?” or “What was before God?” or “What did God do for those billions of years before He created the Universe?”*
- *The problem with the question is that it assumes that God is subject to “chronos” time, but Scripture paints an entirely different picture.*

Isaiah 57:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

- *There is another meaning for “aion” which applies exclusively to God Himself, “aion” can also mean “without time” or “outside of time.”*
- *“Who inhabits eternity” - God does not dwell in “chronos” but in “aion” – in eternity—outside of time.*
- *God dwells in eternity, outside of time, but we dwell in chronos.*
- *For us to begin to truly appreciate the difference between “chronos” and “aion” and the tremendous implications that result, we need to be aware of how God created the universe from both a biblical and scientific perspective.*
- *When it comes to time and space, both the Bible and science agree.*

Isaiah 40:22 (NKJV)

²²It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

- **“Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in” –Seventeen times in the Old Testament God is described as creating the heavens using the concept of stretching it out like a curtain or a tent to dwell in.**
- ***When God stretched out the heavens like a tent to dwell in, it was not a dwelling for God, but for His creation.***

Genesis 1:7–8 (NKJV)

⁷Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so.

⁸And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

- ***On the second day of creation, God created the firmament and called it Heaven.***
- ***The Hebrew word for firmament means, “an expanse” or “something that is solid and that is beaten or stretched out.”***
- ***It is very important to note that the expanse or heavens were created on the second day of creation, but the sun, moon, and stars did not appear until the fourth day of creation.***
- ***Therefore, we can conclude that the expanse or the heavens is different than the sun, moon, and stars which inhabit it.***
- ***What did God create on the second day of creation if on the fourth day He created the heavenly bodies?***
- ***For us to answer the question of what it means that on the second day of creation God stretched out the heavens like a curtain implying something that is solid and also something that can be stretched, we need to understand modern physics and cosmology.***
- ***Einstein in his Theory of General Relativity made some astounding assertions that both space and time were intrinsically linked together to form a space-time continuum.***
- ***Space is not the absence of matter, but is actually something by which the matter is held in place.***

- *The Theory of General Relativity predicted that both mass and velocity bend this space-time continuum, which means that space-time is almost like a fabric that can be stretched and bent.*
- *All creation is in this space-time continuum and it holds all the planets, stars, and galaxies in place, so that they are not randomly floating around, but are set in definite courses of motion in relation to one another.*
- *Mass bends this space-time continuum and we call the effect gravity.*
- *The Theory of General Relativity makes very specific mathematical predictions about how gravity both bends space and affects time.*
- *An atomic clock at sea level will run five microseconds slower per year than a clock located on a mountain one mile above sea level. The gravitational field at sea level is a bit stronger than the gravitational field one mile above sea level and the difference causes “chronos” time to run a little bit slower.*
- *There has been a large variety of precise experiments performed to confirm this gravity time dilation and all of them have confirmed it to better than a 1% accuracy.*
- *When we say that gravitational forces can slow time down, we are speaking about “chronos” time—the rate at which physical processes occur.*
- *Therefore we can understand that on the second day of creation God created this space-time continuum and stretched it out. This also explains why when we look at distant galaxies we can see them and why they appear as if they are billions of years old and why we observe a red shift in the universe.*
- *The entire created universe is within this space-time continuum.*
- *But Isaiah 57:15 says that God inhabits eternity. In other words, He is not subject to space or time, because He created space and time for us.*
- *Therefore everything and everyone in creation is subject to space and time including the spiritual realm of angels and demons, because they are part of creation. God is eternal and He is not restricted by space or time. God is everywhere at once and neither space nor time hinders or limits Him.*

- *That is why God, and only God, is omnipresent and omniscient.*
- *God is omnipresent, because He is outside of space and He is not restricted to any one location. He is everywhere at once.*
- *He is omniscient because He is outside of time and sees all things past, present, and future, from His vantage point of eternity.*

2 Peter 3:8 (NKJV)

⁸But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

- *“do not forget this one thing” – we need to remember that God is not limited by space and time.*
- *“with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day”- God is outside of time because He dwells in eternity—outside of time and space.*
- *Once we understand that God dwells outside of space and time then we can begin to grasp how He can be everywhere at once and that He can be attentive to all that is happening in every corner of the universe, and that He never runs out of time to fulfill His will.*

John 8:58 (NKJV)

⁵⁸Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

- *Jesus did not say, “before Abraham was, I was” but “before Abraham was, I AM,” signifying His eternal nature. His existence is not defined by time or space, because He dwells in eternity. He always existed and always will exist.*

Isaiah 43:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰“You are My witnesses,” says the LORD, “And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me.

- *“And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me.” – The answer to the question “Who created God?” is that God always existed, because He dwells outside of time.*

- *The God that the Bible reveals is not a created God for He is the great I AM, the One who always existed for He is outside of time.*
- *The Bible does speak about created gods, which are called idols.*

Revelation 1:8 (NKJV)

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

- *Five times in the Book of Revelation the phrase, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty” is used to describe the eternal nature of God—the One who always existed and always will exist.*
- *God existed before time began and He will continue to exist, because He is eternal and dwells in eternity.*
- *Once we understand that God created space-time for us to dwell in and that He dwells in eternity the question, “What did God do before He created the Universe?” becomes irrelevant because the question is framed from the point of view of “chronos” time.*
- *Since God dwells in eternity, He is outside of time, therefore all these questions in respect to chronos time and God are unable to be answered, because they are irrelevant.*

Galatians 4:3–5 (NKJV)

³Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.

⁴But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

⁵to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

- *“when the fullness of time had come” - The word time used here is “chronos” and in a very precise moment of time, Jesus Christ, God Himself, left “aion” (eternity) and became a man subject to chronos time.*
- *When Jesus became a man He truly became a man, and was subject to everything we are and He experienced time just as we do.*

- *Jesus was born of a virgin, grew from an infant to a baby to a young boy to a young man, until He was fully mature and prepared to fulfill the work His Father had given Him to do.*
- *While Jesus lived on the earth as a man, He was subject to the limitations of time and space and had to fully rely upon His Father, just as we do.*

Hebrews 4:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

- *Jesus Christ left eternity and became a man subject to space and time. He experienced everything we do, but remained perfectly sinless and because He left eternity, He was able to suffer and die for our sins.*

1 Corinthians 7:29–31 (NASB95)

²⁹But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none;

³⁰and those who weep, as though they did not weep; and those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice; and those who buy, as though they did not possess;

³¹and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the form of this world is passing away.

- *“those who weep, as though they did not weep; and those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice” – The time is short and our pain and joy, our accomplishments and losses, and all of our possessions are short lived and will pass away without a trace.*
- *“the time has been shortened” – The Greek word used here for time is not “chronos” but “kairos.” In other words, the opportune time we have to accomplish His will is limited and every day God gives us specific opportunities to do His will.*
- *The kairos time God gives us to grow into the image of Christ is limited.*
- *The kairos time God gives us to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ is limited.*
- *The kairos time God gives us to pray and witness to the lost is limited.*

- *The kairos time God gives us to rejoice and be thankful on this earth for God's many blessings is limited.*
- *Let's not waste the specific opportunities He gives us daily to live fruitful and joyful lives in Christ.*

2 Corinthians 5:10–11 (NKJV)

¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

¹¹Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

- *The time will come when our earthly lives will end, and we will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ to give an account for our lives.*
- *At the Judgment Seat of Christ there will be rejoicing for some and sorrow and tears for others, as we all must face the reality of how we lived our lives.*
- *This judgment is not for condemnation, but to receive rewards, crowns, and inheritances, or to face the reality of entering into eternity without receiving all that Christ had prepared.*