



## DEVOTIONAL 7

### HOW IS IT YOU DO NOT DISCERN THIS TIME?

#### GREETINGS

The Lord bless you, my brethren. We place this day into the hands of our King. Let us pray:

#### PRAYER

Father of glory  
I give You thanks, Lord, for this day.  
Thank You for Your mercies  
Because they are new every morning.  
In this hour, Lord,  
I ask You to place in the hearts of my brethren,  
Humbleness and simplicity to receive the Word of power and authority.  
O Lord, may this Word touch their lives,  
May it fill them with fire,  
Like a burning bush in their hearts, hallelujah!  
You are Mighty and Glorious, Lord  
You are Holy, King, and Mighty, Lord, thank You.  
In Jesus's mighty name, I pray, amen.

#### PRAISE/WORSHIP

My brethren, I invite you to praise the King of kings with joy and gladness with the worship song, "Song of Moses."

#### BIBLE READING

The name of this devotional is "How is it you do not discern this time?"

My brethren, if you are at home or if you are working, I invite you to open your bibles in Luke 12:54-56:

<sup>54</sup> Then He also said to the multitudes, "Whenever you see a cloud rising out of the west, immediately you say, 'A shower is coming'; and so it is.



<sup>55</sup> And when you see the south wind blow, you say, 'There will be hot weather'; and there is.

<sup>56</sup> Hypocrites! You can discern the face of the sky and of the earth, but how *is it* you do not discern this time?

## TEACHING

The Lord Jesus Christ was speaking to the multitudes and admonished them because they could not discern the time they were living in. The Lord tells them that they could recognise the face of the sky and of the earth by the signs, the rain because of the cloud rising out of the west, or the heat because of the south wind blow; nevertheless, they were unable to discern the time they were in.

What kind of signs and what time is the Lord referring to here? I may wonder. Indeed, the Lord refers to the time of His first coming, that is, of His incarnation and His ministry, which were prophesied abundantly in the Old Testament, which the Jews had.

The Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled more than 300 prophecies written in the Old Testament, which were given for the people of Israel to recognise the time when they were fulfilled so that they would know the time of their visitation. These prophecies were abundant signs announcing that the Messiah would come. But why didn't everyone recognise that Christ was the Messiah? Why was there so much unbelief?

Many failed to realise God Himself, the Christ, was before them; many could not see that the time of the fulfilment of the prophecies had come. They couldn't see the joy.

God's Word teaches us that when Joseph and Mary presented the Lord Jesus Christ in the temple, only Simeon recognised Jesus was the Messiah. Luke 2:25-27 says this as follows:

<sup>25</sup> And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name *was* Simeon, and this man *was* just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

<sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

<sup>27</sup> So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law...

The Scriptures say that Simeon WAITED for the Consolation of Israel; Luke chapter 2, verses 26 and 27 say that the Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon that before he died, he would see the Messiah, the Anointed One of God, and God's Word also says that Simeon came by the Spirit into the temple, just at the moment when Jesus was taken to the temple to be presented according to the custom of the Law. Simeon knew that the child was the Messiah because



he was WAITING for the fulfilment of the Word of God and the prophecies and because Simeon was WAITING for what the Scriptures said. The Holy Spirit spoke to Simeon and revealed to him the time and season when he would see the Consolation of Israel, the living Christ, the Messiah. The servant Simeon then rejoiced and said in Luke 2:29-32:

<sup>29</sup> "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace,  
According to Your word;

<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen Your salvation

<sup>31</sup> Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> A light to *bring* revelation to the Gentiles,  
And the glory of Your people Israel."

With this passage of Luke 2:29-32, beloved brethren, Simeon showed that he knew the prophecies that spoke of the signs to recognise the Messiah; and what the servant Simeon quotes is Isaiah chapter 9 which speaks of the birth and reign of the Messiah, when Simeon says, "A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles." Simeon certainly knew what Isaiah 9:1-2 (NASB) says; let's read:

<sup>1</sup> But there will be no *more* gloom for her who was in anguish. In earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He will make *it* glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walk in darkness  
Will see a great light;  
Those who live in a dark land,  
The light will shine on them.

When Jesus admonished the multitudes and told them that they could not discern the time they were living, the time of the Messiah, He was telling them they did not know the Word of God and therefore, could not remember a single prophecy, not a single sign; they were blind. Then, what did the scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, and other religious men teach the multitudes? What a good question.

Look, my brethren, it is evident that those religious men did not teach the people the prophecies; they did not teach the people the signs to recognise the time, their visitation, to recognise the Messiah, to recognise the salvation. They had the Word of God but didn't teach it as they were supposed to.

Oh, my brethren, how terrible it is not to discern the time we are living! How terrible it is not to see the Word of God that is straightforward and fulfilled before our eyes!



As Israel was at the first coming of Christ, so is the Church now, my brethren. The Lord gave abundant written prophetic words, which are the surest, about His coming for the Church and the beginning of the Tribulation judgement. My brethren, the Lord gave in the Scriptures abundant signs for us to recognise this time so we could clearly discern it. Hallelujah!

Nevertheless, like the Pharisees, Sadducees, and other religious people of the Lord's time, many churches are teaching a gospel that is not the gospel of the Scriptures; they preach and perform signs that do not correspond to the true signs that the Lord established for the End Times that we are already living. The Lord Jesus Christ gave the signs that are throughout the Scriptures and summarised in His discourse on the Mount of Olives. In that discourse, He said in Matthew 24:33:

<sup>33</sup>So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!

And notice that the Lord said in Mark 13:29:

<sup>29</sup>So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near—at the doors!

And the Lord said in Luke 21:28:

<sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

And look, my brethren, in verse 31, the Lord added:

<sup>31</sup>So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.

The Lord said, my beloved brethren, in 1 Thessalonians 5:4-5:

<sup>4</sup>But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

<sup>5</sup>You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

Do you think the Lord said all this so that the Church wouldn't wait for Him, not watch over Him, and say, "My Lord is delaying for a long time his coming"?

The Lord Himself is speaking to us; He is telling us, beloved brethren, that there are clear signs that He gave us to wait for Him, to keep watch, to lift up our heads, to look up and say: The King is coming! The Kingdom of God is near! My redemption is near! My Lord is already at the doors and is calling to me!



## **TIME OF THINKING**

Are you seeing the signs fulfilled? Or are you looking for signs of material prosperity to satisfy your heart's desires? Are you recognising this time that we are living in? This is the time of the Rapture of the Church, of the coming of the King for His Church. Are you recognising the time of your visitation, dear brethren? Because the visitation of the Lord, which is His coming for the Church, is at the door.

Or, do you believe the lie that the time of the coming of the Lord Jesus is not known, the lie that the Lord will take His holy Church as a thief in the night, the lie that Jesus will delay His coming for many years and even centuries to come?

Let us not be like the multitudes to whom the Lord Jesus admonished by saying, "You recognise the weather, but you do not discern this time; you cannot even distinguish it!" So, my brethren, let us heed the signs that the Word of God teaches us; let us give earnest heed to the written prophetic Word, the surest, so that we may discern the time of our visitation that is already here. My brethren, give glory to God this morning!

## **PRAYER**

Father, I thank You, Lord  
For this Word of fire,  
For this Word of Power.  
O Lord, may my brethren live in it,  
May my brethren enjoy it  
May my brethren rejoice on it; may they feel it,  
And may they endure on the Word for Eternity.  
Oh, Lord, what You have kept for us,  
The promises and the inheritance  
Thank You, Lord Jesus  
Because we are joint heirs with You  
And Only we have this wonderful promise through You.  
We thank You, Lord  
In the mighty name of Jesus, I pray, amen, and amen.

Remain blameless, keep sanctifying yourself, and watch and wait for Christ with faith, fire, and love. The Lord is coming soon. Maranatha!