

WHAT TIME IS IT?

Beloved of the Lord:

We know that Christ's return is known to the Father only- (Matt.24:36;Acts 1:7). God is above all almanacs and calculations, so that human speculation is vain! However, we should be "knowing the time, that it is now high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed"-Rom13:11.The character of the times should be discerned. Even a three-fold crisis now appears, substantiated by the Word of God:-

1 - POLITICALLY- Increasing chaos and strife in nations indicate that a Federated Empire is imminent, of world power! Read Psa.2:1-3;Dan.2:41-45; Dan.7:23-27;11:36-45;Matt.24:3-41;1 Thess.5:1-3;2Thess.2:1-12:Rev.6 thru 19. They confirm the character of the Gentile age at its end and drawing near!

2 - MORALLY - Dark days of social evil are described---2 Tim.3:1-5, when evils of paganism and heathenism are abundant. John, the seer, describes the four prominent moral sins at the end - "MURDERS, SORCERIES, (drug addiction) FORNICATION (promiscuous sexuality), THEFTS". - Rev.9:21.They are here and will not be repented of. See Matt.24:37-39. Can we descend much lower?

3 - ECCLESIASTICALLY - The New Testament contains solemn description of the conditions at the end of the Church period, which we should heed!

a - BY PAUL - 1 Tim.4:1-7. SOME shall depart from the faith, by doctrines originating from "demons". Men are exponents of the demonic teaching that seduced them. This will increase "worse and worse" - 2 Tim.3:13.

b - BY PETER - 2 Pet.2:1,2. False teachers abound, departing from the truth! Accelerated by believers who are TOLERANT, LACK CONVICTION like Lot, whom Peter gives as an example - 2 Pet.2:7,8. Such are Laodicean in apathy and luke-warmness, with little or no appetite for the Word of God.

c - BY JUDE - verses 4 and 11. Three stages of apostasy:- (1) Way of Cain - a bloodless sacrifice. (2) Error of Baalim, preaching for position and gain. (3) Rebellion of Korah, defiant, opposed to truth and divine authority!

d - SATANICALLY ENERGIZED - Satan is the great prince of the world (Jno.12:31; 14:30;2Cor.4:4), the source of ALL earthly religions. See 1 John4:1-7 for sources of TRUTH and ERROR! His plans are formulated to meet the desires of mankind religiously! The present state of earthly religion is an anxiety to many and great efforts being made by Satan to remedy it. Christians should beware of his ecumenical program! Men will ALMOST attain to ecclesiastical unity, accomodating the various ideas of their constituents.(2 Thess.2:3,4) Note Rev.13 and 17. When united, what appears success, will prove to be their death bed! Rev.17:14-18. The political power will destroy all the religions of the false church that have deceived the world.

4 - OUR RESPONSIBILITY - "NOW is high time to wake out of sleep: NOW is our salvation NEARER than when we believed!"-Rom.13:11. "Let US not sleep, as do others;but let US watch and be sober"- 1 Thess.5:6. "For God hath NOT appointed US to wrath, but to salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ"-1Thess5:9. THE RAPTURE is God's ecumenical purpose for US - 1 Thess.4:15-18. It is TIME TO BE AWAKE! ARE YOU LISTENING FOR THE SHOUT, OR ARE YOU ASLEEP?

Yours in Christ, LOOKING FOR THAT
BLESSED HOPE!

