

NOW IS THE TIME

March 7, 2010

There are 3 places in scripture where the phrase “**now is the time**” occurs. The first is in **Micah 7**, where the prophet Micah is speaking of the corruption that is in the land of Israel, with people lying in wait to shed blood, having hands skilled in doing evil, rulers demanding gifts, judges accepting bribes, the powerful dictating what they desire and conspiring together to do evil. Then he says, “*The day of your watchmen has come, the day God visits you. Now is the time of their confusion.*” Then he adds: “*I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Saviour; my God will hear me.*” (Micah 7:4)



Today we live in a world and a time when there is more corruption, more violence, more deception, more conspiring to do evil, and more doing evil than ever before. And never has it been more easy for God's people to be affected by it, overwhelmed by it, deceived by it, and even corrupted by it. We watch in hope for the Lord, we wait for God our Saviour, hoping and praying that our God will hear us. Yet in the midst of this there is a call of God that goes forth to His people. He says, “Now is the time your watchman has come – the One who will keep guard over you, protect you and keep you. Now is the day your God will visit you. Now is the time I will bring confusion to those who are corrupt, are violent, deceive and conspire to do evil. Now is the time I will show the truth to be true and falsehood to be false. Now is the time your watching, your waiting, your hoping and your praying will be rewarded, because your God DOES hear you, and He is worthy of glory and honour and praise.”

The second place where the phrase “now is the time” occurs in scripture is in **John 12**, where Jesus said these words: “*The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Father, glorify your name! Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself.*” (John 12:23-32)

Jesus was specifically and intentionally starting something that He is continuing to this day: overcoming, driving out and executing his judgment on the enemy of our souls, and removing forever his power to rule the lives of people who receive the truth and follow after Christ with all their hearts. And in so doing, the name of God the Father would be glorified; the Son of God would be glorified; and people from all nations would be drawn to Him. Jesus has never stopped doing this work – the enemy is still being defeated, the Father's name is still being glorified, Jesus the Son is still being glorified, and He is still drawing people to Himself. Now is the time to see God for who he is. Now is the time to glorify His name and His Son. Now is the time to join with Him in driving the enemy out of our lives. Now is the time to lift up Jesus, so all people will be drawn to Him. Now is the time to listen to the call of creation, that shouts out the power and handiwork of an awesome God. Now is the time... to believe!

Colossians 1:13-20 – *God has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*

The third place where the phrase “now is the time” occurs is in **2 Corinthians 6**, where the apostle Paul said this: *As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says, “In the time of my favour I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” I tell you, now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation.* (2 Cor. 6:1-2)

It's possible to receive God's grace in vain – for it to be ineffective, unproductive, futile, useless to you. God's grace (unmerited, unearned favour) is available for every one of us, but whether or not we receive it, and then allow it to transform our lives and produce effective, productive, fruitful, useful results in our lives is ALL the difference. Paul here quotes the prophet Isaiah where the Lord says, “In the time of my favour I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” And then Paul basically says, “This is not just in the past; this is not just a one-time event that God did; the time of His favour, the day of His salvation, are not over – NOW is the time of God's favour, NOW is the day of His salvation. You need to know today that this is for every one of you. Some of you have been waiting for something – waiting to know more, waiting to figure things out, waiting to “get through” what you've been “going through”, waiting to see more evidence or a sign or a miracle or an undeniable feeling. What you NEED to see today is the grace of God, the favour of God, the salvation of God, and that NOW is the time they are here for you.

John 6:35-40 – Jesus declared, *“I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life.”*

Now is the time to do what God calls us to rather than just what we want to do. Now is the time to go where He is going, say what He is saying, and pray according to His will and word. Now is the time to not forget who He is and what He has done for us, because He is our God and He is always good.