

## **IT IS TIME!!**

Matthew 1: 1-17

### **INTRODUCTION**

Whenever people have a problem, God has a plan. Down through the ages, before the creation of man and woman upon the earth, God had a plan. The origin, nature, focus and destiny of that plan is the freedom of His people and the perfection (completion) of His purpose in their lives. It is not as if God is hoping for the best, and then scratching His head when we blow it, saying, “what should I do next?” NO, already, before you hit your first brick wall, before you landed in your pit, He had His purpose laid out. You say “I give up”, He says “give it over.” He is not slow, He is patient. He is not deaf, He is directing. **IT IS TIME! IT IS TIME** for His plan to supercede our problem. **IT IS TIME** for His miracle, not our managing. **IT IS TIME** for His style of living, and our surrender. Do you hear me lonely one, weary one, defeated one? **IT IS TIME** that the scripture in your life, your church, and your world be **FULFILLED**.

### **THE DILEMMA VS. THE DELIVERANCE**

In Genesis 3:6 Adam and Eve sinned and a bondage problem began; In Genesis 3:15 God had a deliverance plan in action: *“I'm declaring war between you and the Woman, between your offspring and hers. He'll wound your head, you'll wound his heel.”*

In Genesis 15:2 Abraham reminded God that the promise of his having children was almost impossible now.

In Genesis 21:1-2 *GOD visited Sarah exactly as he said he would; GOD did to Sarah what he promised: Sarah became pregnant and gave Abraham a son in his old age, and at the very time God had set.*

In Genesis 37:24 Joseph was thrown into a pit to be done away with. In Genesis 50:20 Joseph said: *“ But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.”*

In Exodus 2:3 Moses was put in a basket to hide him from death; In Exodus 2:8-9 *And Pharaoh's daughter said to her [Moses mother], Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother. And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it.* Moses grew up as a leader in the house that would have killed him, and his mother got paid to nurse him.

The Hebrew children were thrown in a fire for being faithful, and God put a fourth man in the fire, “like unto the Son of God.” Daniel was thrown into a den of lions for praying, and an angel shut their mouth. An important point here: Daniel was made administrator over all of Babylon and of the wise men of Babylon. God always has a plan ready to go. His time is perfect. **IT WAS TIME!!!**

### **THE DEAFENING SILENCE**

What do we do when God seems silent? If His timing isn't immediate, what happens? Usually, it seems, we make our own plan. That (planning not responding) is a Pharaoh thing, a Herod thing, a Nebuchadnezzar thing. Not a God thing. Following the prophet Malachi there was a long silence. It seemed God had stopped. There was nothing fresh, no new revelation, little hope. The lights had gone out and disillusion was rampant. It must not be His will, He must have forgotten, this time He has given up on me.... but then... **IT WAS TIME!!**

### **NOT A DELIVERANCE, A DELIVERER!!!**

Matthew 1:18 thru 2:23 (Follow in your Bible to get the picture).

Matthew 1:18... Notice : “of the Holy Spirit”. This is not a man thing. Vs. 20... Notice “angel of the Lord and conceived of the Holy Spirit”. Not a man thing. Vs. 21-22... Notice “call Him Jesus”, and “that it might be fulfilled”. Not a man plan. Vs. 24... Notice “Joseph aroused from sleep did as the angel

commanded him.” Not a man decision. Chpt. 2:2 Notice “We have seen His star”.. Not a man program. Vs. 4-5... Notice “In Bethlehem of Judea for thus it is written by the prophets”. Vs. 9... Notice “ the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.” Notice... In Vs. 12 Their plans changed “being warned by God”. Notice Vs. 13 Joseph is changing locations due to an angel of the Lord (in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy). NOTICE in Vs. 16-17 Even Herod’s deal was prophesied by Jeremiah... NO SURPRISES FOR GOD HERE. Notice in Vs. 19 another relocation, not a real estate transaction, notice Vs. 22, ANOTHER move, oh yes, a God activity from many years before.

DO YOU NOTICE that there is a pattern here. That there are no great plans of men going on but God is moving on the scene. This is not about one more deliverance, this is bringing the DELIVERER into place, and it is totally, 100%, absolutely, conceived by, prepared by, presented by and performed by God!! IT WAS TIME!! It’s His deal, His program, His timing...and WE ARE NOT THE DELIVERERS, WE ARE...

### **THE DELIVERED**

Jesus has come! The deliverer is delivered to us. Mary is delivered is the as told in Luke, but that’s another story. The Shepherds are delivered, and that’s another story. In this story God reveals Himself to Joseph. Why? He was a righteous man, and he was willing to lay aside His plans for God’s work in his life (chpt. 1:19-20), he put God’s revelation over his thinking (1:20), he heard and responded (1:24, 2: 13-14, 19). God reveals Himself to the wise men. Why? They are seeking, available and willing to lay down their plans for the work of God in their lives. They saw and responded (chpt. 2:1-2), they read and responded (2:5), they heard (2:12) and responded. And it was Daniel some 500 years before who was in charge of the wise men, out of which these men came. God put His man into a pagan society for use 500 years later. His timing is perfect.

### **CONCLUSION**

#### **IT IS TIME-OUR TIME!**

Did you notice in the genealogy that there were four women named. Two prostitutes, two gentiles, one adulterer? Jesus said He was coming to “set at liberty them that are bruised.” The King arrived but only a few got it. The rest were busy with taxes and life. Some though were listening, longing and willing. Some were ready to be a part of the coming of the King. Some were busy with religious duties, some were the “I’ll let Him plan my life, change my day, use my heart, hands, feet, eyes and ears”. Our “Deliverer” is coming again!! He’s coming to us, for us, in us and through us for healing. What if I was so established in my life that He could not break through my agenda to bring His style of living into my life? A King has come that the scriptures might be fulfilled in your life, are you looking for your own God idea so hard that you have missed His “star”, His “angels”, and His “it is written”?

*This past week, while lying in bed thinking, praying, and dozing off, I suddenly awoke to a loud voice, my voice, saying “It is time.” I cannot get away from though I cannot profess to know all that it means. So I just pass it on to you. It may be that it was meant for you today. IT IS TIME!*

1. Jesus what will I be involved in if you come back to earth this week?
2. I’m going to list the things that keep me from hearing you clearly...would you change those things?
3. Where else might I notice you this Christmas besides church services?
4. Father, you are never quitting it seems. When I quit, you keep moving. Perhaps there is something in my life you really want to accomplish. Reveal it to me so that your kingdom can be revealed to my world.
5. Forgive me Jesus, for being so absorbed in my problems, I fail to see your purpose, for give me more for failing to see your PERSON.