

House On The Rock Life Group Study outline 2021

September: Decoding the times and seasons

Week 1 - Understanding the Times and Seasons

Introduction

There are two fundamental dimensions to our reality. One is space - that is length, breadth, height, and everything in-between. The other is time. Space is like a carriage on a train, while time is the network of tracks on which that train travels. Space is like a single car, while time is the network of motorways on which several cars travel at once. Many different people can be in different spaces on the **same** network of train tracks or motorway but eventually end up at different destinations and in different orders. This analogy is of course imperfect, but it provides a useful way of looking at time, so that we can ask certain key questions. **Why** does a person get on particular car or train carriage in the first place? **What** determines **when** a traveller arrives at their destination? **How** does a traveller know that they are going in the right direction, or when to change direction? These questions are all elements that we will look to explore today, as we begin our quest to learn how to decode the times and seasons.

Pilot text

1 Chr 12:23,32 [23]Now these were the numbers of the divisions that were equipped for war, and came to David at Hebron to turn over the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the Lord: [32] of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command.

Eph 5:15-17 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

- What are some of the characteristics of time that are reflected in the introduction?
- Thinking of the pilot scriptures, why do we need to know how to decode/understand the times and seasons?
- Keeping the analogy used in the introduction in mind, let's answer the following questions:
 - **Why** does a person get on particular car or train carriage in the first place? **What determines, or should determine, how we use our time?**
 - **What** determines **when** a traveller arrives at their destination?
 - Finally, **how** does a traveller know that they are going in the right direction, or when to change direction?
- Take home actions
 - Consider where you are now on your journey, and whether anything needs to change in the light of today's discussion.