

## What time is it?

Lesson Text: *Repent ye therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord* (Acts 3:19).

Lesson Text: Acts 3:19-21

Introduction: Over thirty either years ago (I was an adolescent), I had the first of many visions about the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in the clouds to take the church back to heaven with him. In the vision, I had walked out of the house (we were living in at the time) and I saw men and women laying on the ground in a very orderly fashion (these were metaphors that I may or may not explain). They were lying side by side, from head to foot and they had smiles on their faces. I noticed that they were all dressed like the saints of yester year; the women were dressed modestly; their dresses came down to their ankles, wrists and necks. They didn't have on makeup nor any other thing that the characterize them as women of the Twenty First Century. Likewise the men, they were dressed in plain clothes with their shirts buttoned up to their necks. I looked up and I saw angels coming from all four corners of the earth and, even though, I could not see his face, I saw Jesus coming on a white horse. I then laid myself next to one of the saints that was lying on the ground and I felt my spirit coming out of my body and before it could actually happen I awaked. Needless to say, I was trembling and my young mind could not fathom the gravity of what I had just envisioned. The Lord saved me at the age 13 and my passion for the Word of God guided me in studying Matthew 23, First and Second Thessalonians and Revelation about the coming of our Lord for his church. I began to see that we were, then, living in the last days and that, according to the prophetic clock, the rapture (a snatching away) of the saints dead and living to meet him in the clouds of glory was nigh. Back in that day, as the young people of this generation

is so fond of saying, I thought and felt certain that the church would have been in heaven by the year 2000. You don't supposed the rapture have come and we were left behind do you? Don't lose what little hair you have, we haven't been left. Whew! Thank God! I was wrong! I guess that I didn't understand Bible prophecy, concerning the Apocalypse as fully as I should have. But, if the prophetic clock was ticking near midnight thirty years ago, what time is it now? Where are we in the book of Revelation or are our times mentioned in the book of Revelation? According to the lesson scriptures, Peter spoke of a time called, "the time of refreshing" that will come from the presence of the Lord. It is of the utmost importance that we understand the times in which we live or in other words, "what time is it?" Knowing the times was a commandment spoken by the Apostle Paul, he said,

*But of the times and the seasons brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night. ...But ye, Brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief (I Thess. 5:1-2, 4).*

Jesus too, when speaking of the last days, told his disciples to notice certain signs preceding the end of the world. For one,

*For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating, drinking, marrying and giving in marriage until the day that Noe entered the ark (Matt. 24:38).*

As we speak, Bible prophecy, of the end times are being fulfilled before a very eyes. Jesus, as he did in his day and so is God's word doing in our day, are warning his church not to close our eyes to the imminent coming of Jesus Christ. He wants us to know and understand the times in which we are living; he wants us to keep our eyes on the prophetic clock that we may save our families and ourselves. We are going to delve into the times in which we are living, specifically, "the time of refreshing, the time of grace, the time of restitution and the time of the kingdom.

But for now let's answer a few questions to aid in our study of the times.

Assignment: Each student is to look through newspapers, magazines and books for articles that help us to know that Jesus is soon to return. You are to have this by the next class.

1. We now know, that much of Bible prophecy is explained using metaphors. What does the word metaphor mean,
  - a. Words and statements that are easy to understand
  - b. Words and statements that are used as symbols
  - c. Words and statements that say one thing but mean another
  - d. Words and statements that explain morals to stories
  
2. In Bible prophecy, what does the word midnight symbolize?
  - a. A time of day
  - b. The close of human history
  - c. The imminent return of Jesus Christ
  - d. A time of trouble and tribulation
  
3. In Bible prophecy, what does the word night symbolize?
  - a. A period of ignorance
  - b. A time in which the devil is in control
  - c. A time of day
  - d. A time of spiritual blindness
  
4. What time are we living in today?
  - a. The time of refreshing
  - b. The time of grace
  - c. The time of the kingdom
  - c. Apocalyptic times

5. How should we prepare ourselves in the times in which we live?
- a. Don't give it any thought, the times will take care of themselves
  - b. Get all money, cars, houses and sex before it is too late
  - c. Repent and be converted
  - d. Keep your eyes of the prophetic clock
6. The time of refreshing mean, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What will occur after the time of refreshing?
- a. The beast will take over the whole world
  - b. The return of Jesus for the church
  - c. A great saving of souls in the land
  - d. The times of restitution
8. What period occurs after the rapture?
- a. Period of grace
  - b. Period of deliverance
  - c. Period of restoration of the kingdom of Israel
  - d. The period of Tribulation
9. If we are left behind during the rapture, we are doomed forever; there will be no way to go to heaven.
- a. True
  - b. False
10. In the rapture, those that are alive will rise first to me with those who died before the rapture?
- a. True
  - b. False

