



## ***Men Who Understood the Times***

*Of the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their kinsmen were at their command. (1 Chronicles 12:32)*

Neither the gift of prophecy nor the office of apostle is required for born-again men and women devoted exclusively to God's Word and ways to not only "understand the times" in which they live, but to possess the God-given knowledge of what they should do about it. Are you such a person? Do you understand what has been taking place in the Church? In the course of this election cycle? In the unfolding of prophetic events throughout the world? It is not enough, in this case, for biblical wisdom's existence to be proven by "**understanding** the times"; it must be accompanied "with **knowledge** of what to do". I am not trying to elevate myself over anyone else or demean another's opinion, but articulating the observation that among the rank-and-file of Christianity today, there seems to be little evidence we truly "understand the times" much less know what to do about it.

American Christian voters are in a quandary because at the most basic level they recognize that **neither** mainstream candidate is a satisfactory spiritual role model. If they had a deeper understanding of Scripture, they would understand that God gives nations the leaders they deserve. I hear the complaints against the sitting President and their desire to vote him out of office, immediately framed by the frustration of the only legitimate alternative belonging to a cult antithetical on nearly every level to true, biblical Christianity, and someone who does not precisely reflect all of their values. Few Christians understand what is really taking place, that they actually do not have a choice. Because of the backslidden state of the Church in this country, the result is that it will not matter who is elected. Either way, whoever is elected, it is commensurate with what we deserve.

We see this in Scripture over and over again, particularly in the last days of the northern kingdom of Israel before going into captivity by the hand of Assyria, and the lasts days of

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the southern kingdom of Israel before subjugation to Babylon. The apostasy of God's people was so bad, their worship of this life instead of working toward the next so fixed, the giving of their children to Molech (an ancient equivalent to the far worse modern-day behavior of non-therapeutic abortion in the Western world) and the like are all parallels to this present time when the Church is no longer the effective "salt" and "light" to the world mandated by Christ. When God's people cease taking the Gospel to the world and instead bring the world into its ranks, one of the judgments is getting the leaders they deserve. We have so prolifically embraced false teachers and false prophets within the walls of the Church, why should we expect something different in the quality of leadership from secular government?

*"An appalling and horrible thing  
Has happened in the land:  
The prophets prophesy falsely,  
And the priests rule on their own authority;  
And My people love it so!  
But what will you do at the end of it? (Jeremiah 5:30-31)*

There are those who say they will make their displeasure with **both** candidates known by either voting for a third-party who has no hope of winning, or by not voting at all. But the cold, hard truth is that Bible-believing Evangelicals who select either of these options are, in reality, casting a vote for the incumbent. Even if we try to make a political statement by voting for a third-party or do not vote at all, it still directly influences which of the two "undesirables" get elected. I know this is a very hard pill to swallow, but at the statistical end of the story you are voting for one or the other even if you vote for neither one or do not vote at all—you **really are** left with no choice. We are going to get the leader we deserve.

So let's pretend we agree that we understand the geo-political times in which we live; how should we parlay our collective political capital? Trick question, friend, because the solution can never come about by way of a political action committee or Christian activism, but only through sincere repentance of sin and return to the Word. There is no viable "political" solution without acknowledgment and repentance of the behaviors which got us here in the first place. The problem begins with the Church and there also the only true solution can be applied.

In Daniel 9, when Daniel realized God's Word was literally being fulfilled in his day, what did he do?

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*So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes. (Daniel 9:3)*

Did he form a committee? Mentor a movement? Rail on daily from his blog and website about how disgusting things are? *"I gave my attention to the Lord God"*. His attention, in spite of the earthly situation, was heavenward. And what, specifically, did he bring to God's attention? The whole of Daniel 9:1-19 is well worth reviewing, but verses 5-6 sum it up nicely...

*...we have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances. Moreover, we have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our princes, our fathers and all the people of the land. (Daniel 9:5-6)*

If we truly understood this present election cycle, like Daniel we would intercede in repentance on behalf of God's people. Our response would not be earthly or political, but biblically spiritual. Moses, Daniel, Ezra and Nehemiah were all intercessors who although they did not personally commit the sins which led to the national situations they had to deal with, interceded on behalf of God's people, taking responsibility nonetheless.

It is worth noting that this action of looking heavenward is precisely what we are advised to do by Jesus personally when it comes to not just understanding the End Times, but knowing what to do about them.

*"But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Luke 21:28)*

**Every** deception—both political and spiritual—active within the Church today is designed to persuade us to focus on getting something in this life to the exclusion of the next. I would argue that those who "understand the times" and "know what to do" (both politically and prophetically) are not obsessed with the details of this life, not consumed by the political arguments, not emotionally attached, but placing everything within the framework and context of God's Word as applied to a crucified life, whose gaze is fixed on what is to come in eternity rather than distracted and overwhelmed by the temporal. What is taking place in the course of this election cycle and the prophetic events unfolding in the Middle East and Europe should be a wake-up call to *"straighten*

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*up*” (get your biblical act together), “*lift up your heads*” (focus on the heavenly), and understand that something far greater and much more impacting is taking place as “*your redemption is drawing near*”. We’re about to leave this whole festering mess behind for something much, much better!

I am not asking anyone to act like a political ostrich—that would work contrary to anyone “understanding the times”. I am offering that “knowing what to do” is the **spiritual** response which Holy Spirit-filled believers undertake instead of invoking a **worldly** response to a worldly situation. We need to recognize our choices are becoming more and more limited as a prelude to greater judgments to come should there be no repentance or return to Christ. Our displeasure at having no real choice at present will be nothing if we cannot assuage the greater, inevitable judgment of God to come if current behavior is allowed to continue its presence course. If the faithful do not intercede and seek forgiveness, who will?

In Him,

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