



Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries

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TIMES AND EPOCHS

The Greek word translated "times" is "chronos" while for epochs the word is "kairos". Chronos regards time as succession of events –one following after the other in chronological order. In some occasion, the bible used "chronos" for a segment of time with a dispensational connotation [Romans 16:25, 1 Peter 1:20].

In contrast, "kairos" denotes an era, a system or order of chronology, a period of time characterized by a distinctive development. This noun is always for the organization of historical events in their dispensational categories. In various passages kairos refers to Church Age [Romans 8:18], the Jewish age or Israel [Ephesians 2:1-12] or times of the Gentiles, which is not a single dispensation but a broader period that includes the Church Age and Tribulation [Luke 21:24].

The Lord Jesus Christ told His disciples about "the times and epochs" and had taught them at length concerning dispensations. They were not ignorant of dispensational doctrines as others may presume based on the disciples question in Acts 1:6-7. They were familiar with dispensation [Matthew 23:27-25:46, John chapter 14 up to 17]. It was our Lord's extensive dispensational teaching that prompted their questions [Acts 1:6-7, Matthew 5:17, 24:3].

The disciples did not doubt the existence and reality of dispensation, but their idea of the kingdom of God was distorted by two religious sentiments. First was the anti-Romans and secondly, the popular Jewish distorted belief. The primary barrier and the number one anti-biblical dispensation truth are the religious doctrines. If the biblical dispensation is truth, then, all the religious doctrines must be false.

The doctrine of dispensations explains why the disciples were perplexed." And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time you are restoring the kingdom to Israel". He said to them, "It is not for you to know times and epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority." [Acts 1:6-7]

The disciples were living in a period of earth-shattering events and they failed to notice the end of Christ's ministry to Israel and the beginning of His ministry to the approaching Church.

Like some Church Age believers, they confused different period of time (dispensations) with their own time. They failed to understand God's purpose for their lives in the current age [Colossians 2:16-3:3].

The arrival of the Church Age enabled the Disciples of Christ to understand the times and epochs [Acts 1:8]. The Church Age believer has a more complete perspective than Christ's disciples had while He lived in their presence. The Lord ascended into heaven and left His disciples confused with the doctrine of dispensations.

The apostle Paul became the chief advocate of the dispensational teaching although he was still an unbeliever at the time of Christ's ascension [Galatians 2:1-, 2 Peter 3:1-16]. Twenty-one years after Christ's ascension Paul gave orientation to believers in Thessalonica concerning dispensational doctrines:

"Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. For you yourself know full well that the day of the Lord (His second advent) will come just like a thief in the night...But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief [1 Thessalonians 5:4].

Ignorance of this doctrine makes the believer confused about God's plan and purpose. To know this doctrine makes the believer alert and attentive to the plan and purpose of God for his life.