

## THIS IS HIGH TIME



**(Romans 13:11-14)**

Besides this you know what hour this is, how it is high time now for you to wake up out of your sleep, for salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone and the day is almost here. Let us then drop the work and deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light (Rom. 13:11-12).

Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, directs his message to the future which is now. "What hour is this, it is high time." It is the time to awaken from sleep. If he lived today this would have been the message in light of all that's going on. Technology has kept us informed more than we would like to know. The present looks gloomy and uncertain for many people, especially for those who live in the war zones. One day at the time that's all they can count. YAHSHUA revealed to his disciples what was going to happen before the end would come. He warned us indirectly to spare us from the horror of fear as a result of all that will be happen in this world prior to His coming. This we read in Matthews 24:4-8: false Messiahs, wars and rumors of wars, nation rise against nation, kingdom against kingdom, famine, and earthquakes. All these, He said, is the beginning of birth pangs. What do we see

today more than any other time? Aren't we feeling more uncomfortable today than ages past? It is because it is high time- time to awaken from our sleep. This is urgent time. These are the signs of the time. YAHSHUA said, When you see these signs, all taken together, coming to pass, you may know of a surety that He is near, at the very door (Matt. 24:33).

This is high time to pray and not to fear. Pray at all time in the Spirit, drawing our strength from Him, Who is the controller of history and time. Knowing how to discern the signs of time will keep us firm in the faith, faithfully watching for Him to fulfill His promise. It is high time to get into His Word so fear will not have room in our heart and mind. The world is in darkness of ignorance because it has rejected God. He has spoken and He has warned all about what's to come. Paul warned Timothy to herald and preach the Word at any time; keep his sense of urgency- be ready; be calm and cool and steady (II Tim. 4). We do belong to the light. It has shone the truth to our heart, so that we will not be left surprised, shocked, and unready. Paul warned the Thessalonians: but you are not in darkness, brethren, for that day to overtake you by surprise like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of the day; we do not belong either to the night or to darkness. This is high time to awaken up from sleep. Accordingly then, let us not sleep, as the rest do, but let us keep wide awake and let us be sober (calm, collected, and circumspect) ( I Thess. 5:6). Don't be taken away with those who sleep; wake up and be ready, for those who sleep are those who will be left behind. Remember the parable of the ten virgins. Those who were awake were those who were prepared. Understanding the signs of time will encourage all of us to walk in holiness and close to God. Many do not lay the Word of God to heart; many are taking lightly the coming future warnings. They say that God is a good and merciful God; He will not bring judgement on the world. They do not take into account that the sacrifice that His Son made to save men was a covenantal sacrifice. The thought of salvation being free does not exempt us from doing our part – obedience. It takes the two parties to keep a covenant.

YAHSHUA told the disciples that by our steadfastness and patient endurance we shall win the true life of our souls; by prayer, we will be worthy to stand in the presence of the Lord at the time of tribulation that is coming upon the earth. We are living in high time now. What will follow later will be devastating for all those who will remain on the earth after the taking away of the Lord's bride. These are the times for false prophets, wars and rumors of wars, pestilence, famines, and

more. These are the times which were prophesized by God's prophets long ago, by our Lord YAHSHUA and by His disciples. Isaiah was warned and instructed by the Lord with His strong hand not to walk in the way of the people's beliefs, neither fear what people fear; the Lord of hosts- regard Him as holy and honor Him, and let Him be your fear and let Him be your dread, and He shall be a sanctuary...(Isaiah 8:11-14a). This is just the beginning of pains; much more and worse are coming. We must reconcile our mind with the fact. One can never be prepared physically for the coming evil days; but we can be prepared spiritually.

Peter asked the question, since all these things are thus in the process of being dissolved, what kind of person ought you to be in consecrated and holy behavior and devout and godly qualities, while you wait and earnestly long for the coming of the day of God by reason of which the flaming heavens will be dissolved, and will flare and melt with fire? Be eager, he continued, to be found by Him without spot or blemish and at peace (II Pet. 3). These are the characteristics Paul mentioned to Timothy that are typical to those of the end-times: they will be without natural affection, relentless; lovers of self; and self-centered, lovers of money and aroused by an inordinate desire for wealth, proud and arrogant and contemptuous boasters, they will be abusive, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profane; they will be without natural affection, relentless; they will be slanders in temperate and loose in morals and conduct, uncontrolled and fierce, hater of good, treacherous, rash, inflated with self-conceit; lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements more than and rather than lovers of God (II Tim. 3:2-5). There is always a frown in view of these kinds of people today, but it should not be when we realize what has been said about them. Their outcome is of no surprise, since God has warned them ahead of time. Bible prophecies come alive in these high times. It is as if God is reminding us that He is and will be in control to the end. This is Sodom and Gomorrah's days, as well as Noah's day just before judgement came. The Bible says that they were eating and drinking, marrying and been given in marriage when the flood came and swept them all away, so will be when His coming is about to happen. The warning was not taken to heart and they were caught in the midst of the storm. Seemly, the warning has not been taken seriously today, so the same will happen.

Christians, we must keep our sense of urgency at all times; Paul warned Timothy to preach the word in any circumstance. Many people are going straight to hell and many will be left on earth to suffer the wrath of God. A word of warning to

them will save them from that hour. Families and friends without Christ are for sure under His judgment. We should not be content by the fact that we are saved, when others are lost because we have not shared the love of God and the escape from His wrath. These are high times in God's timeline. What will surprise you when time has matured for God to inflict His wrath on the wicked? God desires that all should repent to be saved. Let's be God's faithful heralds. Let's reach out to those who are perishing and being burned with sin. Deliver those who are drawn away to death, and those who totter to the slaughter, hold them back from their doom; if you say, Behold, we did not know this, **does not He Who weighs and ponders the heart perceive and consider it? And He Who guards your life, does not He know it? And shall not He render to every man according to his works?** (Prov. 25: 1-12) These are three questions we must consider to be delivered from guilt as the time runs to eternity. These are times to exercise our faith in God's promise of deliverance. Do not, therefore, fling away your fearless confidence, for it carries a great and glorious compensation of reward... the just shall live by faith...if he draws back and shrinks in fear, My soul has no delight or pleasure in him (Heb. 10:35,38).

**THINK ABOUT IT!**