

BECAUSE It Is the Time



GARY HARGRAVE



There Is a Certain Time Frame in the Things of God

Matthew 8 tells the story of how Yeshua (Jesus) got into a boat and crossed the Sea of Galilee to the area of the Gadarenes. When He arrived, two men who were demon-possessed came out of the tombs crying, “What business do we have with each other, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?” (Matthew 8:29).

It is significant that these demonic spirits recognized Yeshua’s authority and knew that He was the Son of God. They were actually more perceptive than a lot of people. As a result, those spirits asked an interesting question: “Have You come here to torment us before the time?” Not only did they recognize Christ, but they also recognized that there is a certain timing that exists in the things of God.

Revelation 12 tells us more about this.

“For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time.” (Revelation 12:12)

The timing of God is something we need to understand. The Scriptures say that Yeshua was the Lamb of God who was slain from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8). Then the Bible turns around and says, “But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman” (Galatians 4:4). Yeshua also talked in several instances about timing. He said of John the Baptist, “The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John; since that time the gospel of the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is forcing his way [pressing his way] into it” (Luke 16:16). Yeshua recognized that there is a time factor that is involved in what God does.



Satan Knows His Time Is Short

In Luke 8:26, we see the same story again of Yeshua talking to one of these demon-possessed men in the country opposite Galilee.

And when He came out onto the land, He was met by a man from the city who was possessed with demons; and who had not put on any clothing for a long time, and was not living in a house, but in the tombs. Seeing Jesus, he cried out and fell before Him, and said in a loud voice, “What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me.” For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had seized him many times; and he was bound with chains and shackles and kept under guard, and yet he would break his bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert. And Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him. They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss. (Luke 8:27–31)

Again we are talking about the demons having understanding. The demons recognized the authority of Christ. They recognized the place of the abyss as a place of torment, and they were entreating Yeshua not to send them there. Matthew is a little clearer that there was a timing involved. The demons knew about the abyss, so they confronted Christ and said, “Are You going to do this before the time?” Since Yeshua did not send them to the abyss, what does that tell us? The demons were right. It was not the time.

When satan and the demons were cast out of heaven and into the earth, they were brought here for a short time. Revelation says, “For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time” (Revelation 12:12). The devil rages because he recognizes that there is a time factor. Whatever he is going to try to accomplish, he must do it within a certain time because that time will come to an end. When it does, then it will be the time for satan, the demons, and the hierarchy of the satanic authority or government to be confined to the abyss forever (Revelation 20:10).



How Demons Manipulate the Time Factor

In recognizing the Father’s timing, Yeshua did not send the demons into the abyss. Instead, Luke 8:32–33 says,

Now there was a herd of many swine feeding there on the mountain; and the demons implored Him to permit them to enter the swine. And He gave them permission. And the demons came out of the man and entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the demons entreated Yeshua to allow them to enter the swine, He gave them permission. Then the swine ran over the cliff, went into the sea, and died. When the pigs died, the demons were then released from that captivity of being bound in the swine. It seems like a smart plan on the part of these demons. I think they had that plan in mind when they asked Yeshua to do this. These demons recognized His authority to cast them out of the man. So they asked to go into the swine. They saw the swine standing there. They saw the cliff. They knew the ocean was on the other side of the cliff. And they knew if they were cast into the swine, the pigs would be driven into the ocean and be drowned. Then as disembodied spirits, these demons would be free to go find some humans to possess instead.

This was because demons are far more effective on a natural level when they are in a human body. Demonic spirits do not want to be disembodied because then they have a difficult time trying to function on the natural level; it becomes hard for them to pick things up, move things around, or manipulate natural level physical things. So they choose to be in people who have far more influence than swine.

There is a certain demonic knowledge and understanding that satan and his demonic authorities have. But in many ways, there is also an ignorance that rests upon them. In 1 Corinthians Paul said, “We speak God’s wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory” (1 Corinthians 2:7–8). Had they known what was going to happen, they would not have crucified Christ on the cross.



The Establishment of His Kingdom Is a Process

Revelation 12 gives us the picture of satan and a third of the angels being cast out of heaven into the earth. This represents the devil’s whole divine order structure that functions now in the world. Yeshua recognized that event when He said, “I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightening” (Luke 10:18). So from that moment on, satan and his demons were sent into the earth to function here—but only for a short time.

The Kingdom of God comes into the earth progressively. When Yeshua was here, He said, “The kingdom of God has come near to you” (Luke 10:9). He also told the parable of a nobleman who “went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return” (Luke 19:12). So we understand that at the full establishment of Christ’s Kingdom in the heavens, He will return here to see that Kingdom progress until it also encompasses all the earth. Then all creation will be included into “the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ” (Revelation 11:15).

The delay is difficult for us, but it is a process. There are steps that need to take place. Christ coming to earth was a step. Yeshua being crucified on the cross was a step. Christ ascending to the right hand of the Father was another part of the progression. This opened up a new period that was revealed in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. So now we no longer have one Christ on earth, but we have the Body of Christ made up of many members.



Now the Sons of God Will Come to Maturity

What God is doing now, He is doing in us. Yeshua prayed,
“The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me” (John 17:22–23).

We will all be perfected in our oneness with one another. That is why we are driven to see oneness in the Body of Christ. Without that oneness there is an inability for our authority to function, and we must function!

If the demons recognized the time and Yeshua recognized the time, then we had better recognize the time. Paul talked about the date set by the Father.

Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. (Galatians 4:1–2)

Paul also talked about the maturing of the sons of God and said that God's children are under guardians and managers until the time set by the Father.

We, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" (Galatians 4:3–6)

Notice that all these references to the sons become plural. It is not talking about the singular Christ. It is not talking about one Son who comes to maturity. Now you have many sons who come to maturity; that is what Paul is saying here. So we see this idea of time from another perspective.



The Holy Spirit Is Like an Alarm Clock

The demons, satan, and the principalities and powers are all waiting for the time. They know the time will come when they will be bound in the abyss in a place of torment for them. And the sons of God are also waiting for a time. That is what I want you to see now. The Holy Spirit is like an alarm clock going off in you, declaring, "It is the time!" We are not to be slaves anymore. We are not to be under bondage or under managers. There is a time when all that stops.

The Body of Christ has been suppressed to the point of not being functional. But now we are blowing a trumpet in Zion and saying, "It is the time." The sons of God are discovering that it is time, and their spirits are crying, "Abba! Father!" It is time for the maturing of sons. It is time for the fullness. It is time for the Spirit of the Lord to release the sons of God, and not just one or two of us. The day of the big Church leaders and evangelists is gone. Now it is time for the mighty people of God to come forth arranged for battle (Joel 2:5). God has released it, and we are in that time.

Do not enter this time with fear. The gates of hell cannot overpower you. Peter had a revelation of the Lord and said,

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter [a pebble], and upon this rock [bedrock] I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven." (Matthew 16:16–19)

What is Yeshua talking about? He is talking about His ecclesia. He is not talking about Peter. He is talking about this great Body of people who would come forth and prevail against everything of satan, against everything of hades and would not be overpowered. The promise is fulfilled in this great company of mature sons in the Body of Christ.

Yeshua promised, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you shall bind on earth, shall be bound in heaven. And whatever you shall loose on earth, shall be loosed in heaven. Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ" (Matthew 16:19–20). Why? To keep satan as stupid as possible. But the promise to the sons was that they would be given the keys of the Kingdom to bind and to loose. Yeshua did not bind the demons in the man from the country of the Gadarenes. Instead, He let them off the hook and sent them into the pigs. But now Christ is saying, "You are going to bind them. The Body that comes forth in My name will bind the satanic hordes."

Their appearance is like the appearance of horses;
And like war horses, so they run.
With a noise as of chariots
They leap on the tops of the mountains,
Like the crackling of a flame of fire consuming the stubble,
Like a mighty people arranged for battle.



We Will Face the Raging of Satan

As the sons of God come forth in the earth, we will face the raging of satan against us and against all the earth. But the devil has only a short time. His rage is only a small part of the story. When the demons saw Yeshua in His singular body, they knew it was not the time. But when satan is faced with sons coming to birth and with Christ in His many-membered Body standing in the earth, then the devil will know it is the time. And when he asks you, "Have you come to torment me before the time?" Your answer must be, "It is the time!" Now is the time for the corporate Body of Christ to function. Christ has given us the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and with those keys we bind satan, in the name of the Lord. This time satan and his angels and his principalities and powers will not get a break. In this generation, they will not be let off easily and go into some pigs.

It is the time. We move in the authority of Christ, and we overcome by the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 12:11). As His Body we stand in one spirit, in one heart, and in one determination to say, "Satan, you are bound. And we cast you into the abyss where you are bound eternally, in the name of the Lord, because we have been given the keys." We are not going to back down, and we will not be bluffed out. You must know in your heart that this is the time, and we have the authority. We stand in the earth as the many-membered Body of Yeshua our Messiah.

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

MATTHEW 16:19



It Was Not Easy for Yeshua Either

It was not easy for Yeshua either. If you remember, in the beginning of the story in Matthew 8, Yeshua ran into a violent storm on His way across the Sea of Galilee.

And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was asleep. And they came to Him and woke Him, saying, “Save us, Lord; we are perishing!” He said to them, “Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?” Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm. The men were amazed, and said, “What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?” (Matthew 8:24–27)

Those demonic spirits in the Gadarenes knew that Yeshua was on His way, and they were trying to stop Him from ever arriving.

You are probably going through a lot of things right now too. When you start to move in Christ’s authority, the devil sees you coming and he does not want to be bound. So his first effort is to block you from ever arriving at that place where you can move in Christ’s authority. But do not be fearful. Do not back off. Yeshua knew what He was doing, and He knew what He was facing. He knew that those spirits were causing the storm. And when He took authority over them, the wind stopped.

Lord, give us the perception to see what is behind the wind and the waves. Give us understanding by the Holy Spirit that it is the time. In all that we are doing, we have one purpose and that is to cast satan into the abyss as we usher in Christ’s Kingdom. It is the time.

All Scripture references are from the New American Standard Bible 1995 (NASB1995).

ABOUT GARY HARGRAVE



GARY HARGRAVE has a passion for leading people into spiritual maturity. Gary effectively ministers the life-changing truth of God's Word through Bible teaching and prophetic revelation that emphasizes the Lordship of Christ.

Gary embraces the teachings and insights of the Hebrew Scriptures as the essential foundation of God's Kingdom and the roots of Christian faith.

By cultivating spiritual maturity in Christians, Gary is deeply committed to teaching and inspiring unity in the Body of Christ and between Christians and the Jewish people.

Throughout decades of ministry, Gary has worked closely with leaders in the Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant communities to build relationships based on commonality and understanding. He frequently leads study tours to Israel in the land of the Bible.

Gary is the host of a weekly podcast entitled *Growing In God* and is the founder of Shiloh University, an accredited online Bible college and seminary.

Gary and his family reside in Hawaii.

For other insightful resources by Gary Hargrave, including podcasts, books, articles, videos, and other educational materials, please visit: www.HargraveMinistries.org.

ABOUT HARGRAVE MINISTRIES

The calling of the Lord upon this ministry is to lead people into spiritual maturity by revealing biblical truth. **Our passion is to see the Kingdom of God manifest on earth** as the Body of Christ grows in unity, power, and love.

Everything we do flows from the revelation of the Jewish foundations of our Christian faith. It is our desire and privilege to bless the land and people of Israel. Our Israel outreach includes our ability to:

- **Feed the poor and break the cycle of poverty in Israel.**
- **Support the orphans and widows of fallen Israeli soldiers.**
- Provide physical and emotional care to **child victims of terrorism.**
- **Build bridges between Christians and Jews with biblical study and research.**
- Support archaeology and preservation of the **biblical City of David.**
- Provide 24/7 **care for Holocaust survivors.**
- **Help persecuted Jews around the world return to Israel and start new lives.**
- Plant trees to **reforest Israel** and help create **"The Gospel Trail"** between Nazareth and Capernaum.

Hargrave Ministries is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supported through the generous contributions of ministry friends and partners. To learn more about the work of Hargrave Ministries or to partner in its outreach to Israel, please visit: www.HargraveMinistries.org

