

## **UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES** *How shall We Live. . .today?*

**Backdrop:** 1 Chronicles 12:32. “The Men of Issachar”

- A. “Understood the times”:
- B. “Knowledge of what Israel should do”

### **1. The Importance of Understanding the Times**

How much do we understand the political, cultural and spiritual climate of our world? Are we observant to the point of discerning how to live? What is necessary to know and understand?

- A. **Understand why you are here:** Acts 17:24-28a
- B. **Understand who is in charge:** (Isa 46:5-11)
  - God is faithful. Period.
  - God is long-suffering—and he is not desiring that anyone should perish!
  - God is in control of all that happens—not matter how bad it gets
  - God is never caught by surprise. To Israel He reminded them that He never slumbers nor sleeps. (Psalm 121)
  - God’s plan will prevail and triumph
    - When it comes to prophecy. . .

“The future has already been written in advance, and God will fulfill His plans with absolute perfection.”  
(Steven Miller, “Foreshadows”, page 17)

### **C. Understand the realm of this world**

- Romans 1
- 2 Timothy 3:1-7
- Ephesians 6:12-12

**Summary:** The times in which we live, is the time our sovereign God has placed us—for His purposes. These times truly reflect what Scripture describes as the realm of Satan, the god of this age (2 Co. 4:4). Even Jesus referred to Satan as the ruler or prince of this world system (John 12:31).

### **2. The Necessity of Knowing What to Do in These Times (Eph. 5:15-17)**

“God has set boundaries to our lives, and our opportunity for service exists only within those boundaries”.  
(John MacArthur, “Commentary on Ephesians”, p221)

**Conclusion:**