MY SET TIME

Key Texts: 1 Chronicles 12:32 | Psalm 139:16 | Psalm 102:13

Introduction: Don't Sleep Through Your Moment

There is a sleep that is more dangerous than the sleep of the body. Many people sleep the sleep of death right through their destiny. Their moment came — the door opened, the opportunity stood at the gate — and they were not awake to see it. They were alive, but they were not alert. And when they finally opened their eyes, the moment had passed.

The Bible teaches that God does not only have a plan for your life; He has a timetable for it. Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." There is a set time for your purpose. The question this message asks is simple: will you recognize yours when it comes?

1. Men Who Understood the Times

1 Chronicles 12:31–33

From the half-tribe of Manasseh: 18,000 designated by name to come and make David king. From Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do: 200 chiefs with all their kinsmen at their command. From Zebulun: 50,000 fit for service, trained for battle with all kinds of weapons of war, who with one purpose were devoted to David.

Look carefully at the sons of Issachar. They were only two hundred chiefs — a small company compared to Zebulun's fifty thousand — yet Scripture singles them out. Why? Because they understood the times, and because they understood the times, they knew what Israel should do. Discernment of the season produced direction for the nation.

Notice what follows in the very next verse: Zebulun came "with one purpose, devoted to David." That is not an accident of arrangement. When a people know their time, two things happen:

1. **Purpose exudes.** When you know what time it is, you stop wandering. Confusion dies, and clarity takes its place. The sons of Issachar did not guess what Israel should do — they knew, because they had read the season correctly.

2. **Devotion follows.** Purpose produces commitment. Fifty thousand men gave themselves to David with one heart. Nobody stays devoted to what they are confused about. But when the time is clear and the purpose is clear, devotion comes naturally.

Knowing your time settles your purpose, and a settled purpose commands your devotion.

2. The Pharisee and Sadducee Dilemma

Luke 12:56

You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and sky. Why don't you know how to interpret the present time?

Here is a sobering thought: it is possible to be religious and still miss your time. The Pharisees and Sadducees were experts. They could look at a cloud rising in the west and say, "Rain is coming," and it came. They could feel the south wind and say, "It will be hot," and it was. They were brilliant at reading the sky — and blind to the Messiah standing in front of them.

The Son of God — the very fulfillment of everything they had studied, memorized, and taught — was walking among them, and they could not interpret the moment. Jesus wept over Jerusalem for this exact reason: "because you did not know the time of your visitation" (Luke 19:44).

You can be skilled at reading everything except the one thing that matters. You can read the economy, read the news, read the trends — and still fail to read what God is doing in your own life. May that not be our portion.

3. Set an Alarm for Destiny

Let me bring this home. Sometimes, as human beings, we are simply tired. We have walked through a long day, and when we finally lie down, we know ourselves — we know we may not wake up on time. So what do we do? If we have a flight to catch in a few hours, we tell the person next to us, "Please wake me up." Or we set an alarm. We do not trust the moment to chance, because we know the flight will not wait for us.

We take that much care over a natural appointment. How much more the appointments of destiny?

But here is the difference, and it is a weighty one. If you miss a flight, you can book another one. It costs you money and inconvenience, but there is another flight. The time of destiny is not like that. When a set time is missed, it may take years before it comes around again — and some doors, once they close, may never open again. That is why the Bible says, "Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near" (Isaiah 55:6). "While" means there is a window.

I pray for someone reading this today: **you will not sleep through your appointed time.** And if you feel you have already missed it, hear this — God's mercy specializes in finding people again. The God who said, "I will restore to you the years that the locust has eaten" (Joel 2:25), is able to give you another set time. Mercy will locate you.

4. "Nevertheless, at Your Word"

> **Luke 5:5**
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> ***Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing. Nevertheless, at Your word I will let down the net.***

Peter's story shows us how a set time often arrives: it comes as a word. Peter had fished all night — the right lake, the right nets, the right skill, the wrong time — and caught nothing. Then Jesus spoke one instruction, and the same lake that starved him all night filled two boats until they began to sink.

What changed? Not the lake. Not the nets. Not Peter's ability. The timing changed, because the Word had entered the situation. Your set time is very often wrapped inside an instruction. When God speaks, the season shifts — and the wise response is Peter's response: "Nevertheless, at Your word." Obedience to a present word positions you inside your set time.

5. When It Works for Everyone but You

There is another struggle we must be honest about: the challenge of identifying your time. Some people go into a business and succeed. They even teach other people, and those people seem to get it right too. But you — you did the same thing, followed the same steps, and it was all a mess. Then the questions begin: "Maybe something is wrong with me. Maybe I am the problem."

Hear me: maybe nothing is wrong with you. Maybe you are simply out of your timing, or out of your lane. Ecclesiastes 9:11 says the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, "but time and chance happen to them all." What flourishes in someone else's season may wither in yours — not because you lack ability, but because it is not your assignment or not yet your hour. Sometimes all you need is not more effort in the wrong direction, but the courage to change course and ask God, "Lord, what is my work, and what is my time?"

A fish is not a failure because it cannot climb a tree. Put it in water — its own element, its own timing — and it excels. Get into your own assignment and your own season, and watch what God does.

6. Diligence Positions You for Your Time

> **Proverbs 22:29**
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> ***Do you see a person skilled in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure people.***

Now, do not let anything I have said sound like an excuse for laziness. Your set time will meet you where your preparation left you. He who is diligent in what he does will stand before kings. The set time brings the door, but diligence determines whether you are ready to walk through it.

Joseph's set time came suddenly — one morning he was in prison, by evening he was prime minister — but when the moment came, he had an interpretation ready and a plan ready, because he had been faithful in the house and faithful in the prison. David's set time came through Samuel's horn of oil, but he had already killed the lion and the bear in obscurity. Stay skillful. Stay faithful. Kings are coming to look for the diligent.

7. Jesus: A Life on a Divine Agenda

> **Hebrews 10:7**
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> ***Then said I, Lo, I am come (in the volume of the book it is written of me) to do Thy will, O God.***

Jesus is our perfect example of a life lived on a divine timetable. He did not improvise His way through the earth — there was a script. "In the volume of the book it is written of Me." He knew there was an agenda written in heaven concerning Him, and He lived to fulfill it.

That is why He could say, “My time has not yet come” (John 7:6), and later pray, “Father, the hour has come” (John 17:1). He was never rushed and never late, because He moved by the Book, not by pressure. And at the end He could declare the words every one of us should long to say: “It is finished” — not “I am tired,” not “I ran out of time,” but “I have finished the work You gave Me to do” (John 17:4).

8. All My Days Were Written

Psalm 139:15–17

My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in secret, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all my days were written in Your book and ordained for me before one of them came to be. How precious to me are Your thoughts, O God, how vast is their sum!

And this is the foundation under everything: what was true of Jesus is true, in measure, of you. All your days were written in God’s book and ordained before one of them came to be. You are not an accident, and your life is not a rough draft. There is a book in heaven about you — chapters, seasons, appointments, set times — written before you drew your first breath.

If your days are written, then your times are known. And if your times are known, then the God who wrote the book can wake you up for every appointment in it.

"Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come."

1. Prayer for Divine Mercy

Father, arise and have mercy upon me. Let every judgment against my life be overturned by Your mercy, and let my set time of favor begin today, in Jesus' Name.

2. Prayer Against Delay

O Lord, every spirit of delay, stagnation, and backwardness assigned against my destiny, be destroyed by fire. I enter into my appointed season, in Jesus' Name.

3. Prayer for Divine Favor

Father, let Your uncommon favor surround me as a shield. Cause doors that have been shut against me to open by Your divine favor, in Jesus' Name.

4. Prayer for Divine Remembrance

O God of remembrance, remember me as You remembered Hannah, Joseph, and Zion. Let every forgotten blessing locate me now, in Jesus' Name.

5. Prayer for Restoration

Lord, restore every year, opportunity, relationship, blessing, and inheritance that the enemy has stolen from my life. Let restoration begin now, in Jesus' Name.

6. Prayer for Open Doors

Father, every door that has remained closed against my progress, ministry, business, career, and family, open by the power of the Holy Spirit. I receive supernatural access, in Jesus' Name.

7. Prayer Against Every Evil Calendar

In the Name of Jesus, I cancel every satanic timetable, evil appointment, and demonic calendar programmed against my destiny. I align myself with God's divine timing and purpose.

8. Prayer for Divine Acceleration

Lord, accelerate my progress. What should have taken years, accomplish by Your power in a short time. Let divine speed replace every delay, in Jesus' Name.

9. Prayer for Breakthrough

Father, arise on my behalf. Let every mountain before me become a plain. I receive breakthroughs in my health, finances, family, ministry, career, and every area of my life, in Jesus' Name.

10. Prayer for the Fulfillment of Destiny

Father, I declare that I will not miss my divine appointment. My set time has come. I shall fulfill my God-ordained destiny, finish my race with joy, and glorify Your Name, in Jesus' Mighty Name. Amen.