

# The Accepted Time



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## THE ACCEPTED TIME

### **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8;**

**“Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses. He sets the time for birth and the time for death, the time for planting and the time for pulling up, the time for killing and the time for healing, the time for tearing down and the time for building. He sets the time for sorrow and the time for joy, the time for mourning and the time for dancing, the time for making love and the time for not making love, the time for kissing and the time for not kissing. He sets the time for finding and the time for losing, the time for saving and the time for throwing away, the time for tearing and the time for mending, the time for silence and the time for talk. He sets the time for love and the time for hate, the time for war and the time for peace”.**

(Good news Translation)

God in His perfection has His own ways of doing things. One of such ways is that He has a timetable by which He works, and He follows it strictly. This is demonstrated in the way He handled the case of Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha (**John 11:1-8: "A man named Lazarus, who lived in Bethany, became sick. Bethany was the town where Mary and her sister Martha lived. This Mary was the one who poured the perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was sick.)** The sisters sent Jesus a message: "Lord, your dear friend is sick. "When Jesus heard it, he said, "The final result of this sickness will not be the death of Lazarus; this has happened in order to bring glory to God, and it will be the means by which the Son of God will receive glory. "Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet when he received the news that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was for two more days. Then he said to the disciples, "Let us go back to Judea. "Teacher," the disciples answered, "just a short time ago the people there wanted to stone you; and are you planning to go back?").

The Bible says He loved this man and his two sisters. Because of this love, the sisters of Lazarus were in no panicky state at all when he fell sick because they

knew that all they needed was for Jesus to hear that His friend was sick and He would rush to the scene and heal him immediately. How mistaken they were. However, God knew of the condition of Lazarus even before it happened. The Bible says in **Acts 15:18** **“Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.”**

Lazarus’ sisters waited for Jesus to come till the time they concluded it was all over. They were not disappointed at the end because when it was time for Him to act according to His timetable, their mourning turned to joy and they sang a new song.

If you are truly His child, walking uprightly before Him, be aware that He knows of that experience you are having for which you earnestly desire a change. He is not just getting aware of it now but He knew about it before you were born. How amazing! When He stepped into the case of Lazarus according to His own time-table on the fourth day of his demise, the hopeless situation became a great testimony. Has His “delay” made your case worse, or has your case degenerated and decayed, just like the body of Lazarus in the grave for four days? I have good news for you: the Lord will step in and yours shall be a mighty testimony, and great joy shall follow in Jesus’ Name.

Note that while the disappointment of Martha and Mary lasted over their dead brother, it was not reported that they got angry with Jesus. In grief, they did not consider Him less than they had taken Him to be. They did not blaspheme or say rubbish against God. There is no doubt that they were pained because Jesus did not come around at their own timing when, supposedly, there was still hope. Nevertheless, their response to Jesus was still that of reverence (John 11:32: "Mary arrived where Jesus was, and as soon as she saw him, she fell at his feet. "Lord," she said, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died!")

Ensure you do not get angry with God when faced with trouble. This could compound your problem.

**John 11:39-44;**

**"Take the stone away!" Jesus ordered. Martha, the dead man's sister, answered, "There will be a bad smell, Lord. He has been buried four days!" Jesus said to her, "Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believed?" They took the stone away. Jesus looked up and said, "I thank you, Father that you listen to me. I know that you always listen to me, but I say this for the sake of the people here, so that they will believe that you sent me."**

**After he had said this, he called out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" He came out, his hands and feet wrapped in grave cloths, and with a cloth around his face. "Untie him," Jesus told them, "and let him go."**

**(Good news Translation)**

God is never too early, and He is never too late. His timetable is set on purpose; the purpose is not only for your sake but also for His. In all things, His name shall be glorified. No doubt, He would have been glorified healing Lazarus of his sickness, but this cannot compare to raising him from the dead after four days. God works according to His own time-table. His time-table is not necessarily in tune with your own time-table, even when it concerns situations or issues of your life for which you desire His intervention. Being the perfect God that He is, His time-table is the perfect one and not yours. Your case will soon become a testimony that will bring you great joy and celebration; your testimony will also bring great glory to God, in Jesus' Name. Keep resting in Jesus, keep trusting in Him, and don't shift your focus from Him. You are on the verge of God turning the table in your favour and turning it against your enemies.

The attributes of God's nature such as omnipotence, omnipresence and omniscience are demonstrated in the way His timetable works. His love moves Him to seek the good of His people and to desire their peace, joy, fulfilment, health etc. By His omnipresence and omniscience, He sees and knows all that is going on, even to the smallest detail. Through His omnipotence, He has the ability to effect the required and desirable change — for example, He can make a ninety year old woman conceive a child, as was the case with Sarah. He can bring back to life a decaying corpse, as was the case of Lazarus, the brother of Martha and Mary (John 11:39-44).

He can also make a woman to have natural birth after three previous births by caesarean section, as He did for my wife. God, by His omnipotence is even able to bring back lost opportunities, such as in the life of Abraham, who in spite of working out his own plan to fulfil God's purpose for his life, still received the true seed of promise, though his action and expectation should have aborted God's original plan for his life (Genesis 17:16-19: I will bless her, and I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she will become the mother of nations, and there will be kings among her descendants. Abraham bowed down with his face

touching the ground, but he began to laugh when he thought, "Can a man have a child when he is a hundred years old? Can Sarah have a child at ninety? "He asked God, "Why not let Ishmael be my heir? "But God said, "No. Your wife Sarah will bear you a son and you will name him Isaac. I will keep my covenant with him and with his descendants forever. It is an everlasting covenant").

What more can we hope for? When God is at work, the impossible becomes possible, the irreversible becomes reversed, and the hopeless becomes hopeful. He can (rewrite history with your life. Your story is changing from a shameful or reproachful one to an enviable one. You will forget quickly the pain and sorrow of your past by the change of events which will occur soon in Jesus' Name"

### **Numbers 14:39-45**

**“When Moses told the Israelites what the LORD had said, they mourned bitterly. Early the next morning they started out to invade the hill country, saying, "Now we are ready to go to the place which the LORD told us about. We admit that we have sinned. “But Moses said, "Then why are you disobeying the LORD now? You will not succeed! Don't go. The LORD is not with you, and your enemies will defeat you. When you face the**



**Amalekites and the Canaanites, you will die in battle; the LORD will not be with you, because you have refused to follow him. “Yet they still dared to go up into the hill country, even though neither the LORD's Covenant Box nor Moses left the camp. Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who lived there attacked and defeated them, and pursued them as far as Hormah”.**

**(Good news Translation)**

Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth did not give birth to John the Baptist until they had grown old. Yet the Bible says this of Zechariah the priest of God and Elizabeth his wife in **Luke 1:6: “And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless”.**

In spite of their right standing with God, John was not born until the time was set in God’s timetable. This was on purpose. The one that would be the forerunner of the Messiah (Jesus) was only going to be older than Jesus by 6 months. God had reserved for His righteous servants the honour of becoming the parents of this fellow who would be the forerunner of the Lord, and who would also be the greatest of the Old Testament prophets (**Matthew 11:11: “I assure you that John the Baptist is greater than anyone who has ever lived. But the**

**one who is least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than John.**) The same applies in the case of Hannah, who was ridiculed and mocked for a long period of time, due to barrenness. Right about that time, God wanted to have a man for Himself who would love Him and walk in total obedience, so as to clear up the prevailing mess of spiritual lethargy and lead the people back to Him. That child must be one that would be completely devoted to God. Hannah's desperation for a child made her willing to devote her child to God right about the time when God's timetable was set for His plan. You may have been waiting for a long period for your own child and it seems God has forgotten you. Not so. You are being prepared for a history-making child that would be used mightily of God.

You must be ready when God says His time has come. From the above bible passage when on God's timetable, the Israelites were supposed to move into the Promised Land from the wilderness, they were instructed through Moses to do so. They were however not ready. They demonstrated unbelief and doubt in God's ability and faithfulness. This made them afraid of the physical stature of the people in the land. Hence they revolted and missed their chance. When it eventually dawned on them that they had made a serious mistake, it was too late

for them. All these happened within the space of a 24-hour window. Even an hour's delay can be disastrous in the things of God.

In 1 Kings 17:8-16: "Then the LORD said to Elijah, Now go to the town of Zarephath, near Sidon, and stay there. I have commanded a widow who lives there to feed you. So Elijah went to Zarephath, and as he came to the town gate, he saw a widow gathering firewood. "Please bring me a drink of water," he said to her. And as she was going to get it, he called out, "And please bring me some bread, too." She answered, "By the living LORD your God I swear that I don't have any bread. All I have is a handful of flour in a bowl and a bit of olive oil in a jar. I came here to gather some firewood to take back home and prepare what little I have for my son and me. That will be our last meal, and then we will starve to death. "Don't worry," Elijah said to her. "Go on and prepare your meal. But first make a small loaf from what you have and bring it to me, and then prepare the rest for you and your son. For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The bowl will not run out of flour or the jar run out of oil before the day that I, the LORD, send rain.' The widow went and did as Elijah had told her, and all of them had enough food for many days. As the LORD had promised

through Elijah, the bowl did not run out of flour nor did the jar run out of oil". If Elijah had delayed, the widow would have prepared her last meal and she would have eaten it all. It is my prayer that you will be ready when God's time comes, in Jesus' Name.