

Spiritually Discerning the Times

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INTRO.

1 Chronicles 12:32 New Living Translation

From the tribe of Issachar, - there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. ... All these men - **understood the signs of the times** - and **knew the best course for Israel to take**.

We are living in a day and age where many cannot see – nor do they truly understand – the events that are happening around them ... At best – people receive very censored information concerning events that are happening around them ... But from time to time – the “unspoken part” gets spoken aloud ... Even then – many do not hear ... I will be more specific in a few minutes ... There is a specific reason that we – the church must be aware of the signs of the times

2 Corinthians 2:5-11 J.B. Phillips New Testament

There was a reason for my stern words; - this is my advice now ... We don't want Satan to win any victory here, - and well we know his methods!

A key factor in understanding the signs of the times is - - Everything that happens in this natural realm – in this world – in this country – in your town – has a spiritual dynamic behind it ... There are “spiritual influences” – spirit beings – behind everything that occurs in this world along with every decision a person makes ... What is interesting is – even the world understands this principle – that there are “spiritual influences” at work in the world ... Remember the cartoon series called Tom and Jerry.

What is concerning to me is that the church – for the most part – has lost its sense of discerning the times – addressing the specifics of the times – and setting forth the best course of action to take ... If 200+ folk from the tribe of Issachar could do it – then certainly the church of Jesus

Christ can ... Understand – discerning matters of the spirit – can only happen with those who are spiritual

1 Corinthians 2:14 NKJV

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

See – religious ideology – proclaimed by carnal preachers and teachers has been destroying the body of Christ for decades now ... Paul warned Timothy of this matter:

2 Timothy 3:1-5 J.B. Phillips New Testament

But you must realize that in the last days the times will be full of danger. ... They will maintain a facade of “religion,” but their conduct will deny its validity. ... You must keep clear of people like this.

VOICE

Even though they may look or act like godly people, - they’re not. ... They deny His power. ... I tell you: Stay away from the likes of these.

The pulpits and the pews are becoming more and more filled with these type of people ... What this has produced in Christendom today is a powerless – spiritually ignorant – non-discerning church ... A church that has clearly become ignorant of the devil’s devices – especially in the area of causing division

Romans 16:17-18 New Living Translation

And now I make one more appeal, - my dear brothers and sisters. ... **Watch out for people who cause divisions** - and upset people’s faith - by teaching things contrary to what you have been taught. ... Stay away from them. ... 18 Such people are not serving Christ our Lord; - they are serving their own personal interests. ... By smooth talk and glowing words - they deceive innocent people.

1 Corinthians 3:3 New Life Version

You still live as men who are not Christians. ... When you are jealous and fight with each other, you are still living in sin - and acting like sinful men in the world.

The pulpits and pews are becoming filled with people who are spiritually ignorant – religiously indoctrinated – powerless people – who when the enemy of the body of Christ – actually shows his hand – actually says the silent part out loud ... People still don't believe.

[This is from an MSNBC segment – All In with Chris Hayes](#)

The segment was titled: “The Republican Mess - - How Christian Nationalism could shape a 2nd Trump term”

“The one thing that unites all of them – because there are many groups orbiting Trump is - - but the thing that unites them as Christian nationalist – not Christians by the way – because Christian nationalist is very different – is that they believe that our rights as Americans – as all human beings – don't come from any earthly authority – they don't come from Congress – they don't come from the Supreme Court – they come from God”

Discerning the Times – Attack upon Christianity

One – They want to divide Christians into two distinct groups ... One group that is acceptable and the other group that is dangerous to democracy.

Two – They want to categorize this dangerous group of Christians as Christian Nationalist ... They also want to tie this group to Trump whom they have already identified as a danger to our democracy

Three – The definition of a Christian nationalist and what they seek to demonize is very specific ... Notice and I quote: “*they believe that our rights as Americans – as all human beings – don't come from any earthly authority – they don't come from Congress – they don't come from the Supreme Court – they come from God*”

Fourth – Their approach to demonize is multi-pronged:

[They seek to destroy God's Sovereignty](#)

[Colossians 1:16 New Life Version](#)

Christ made everything in the heavens and on the earth. ... He made everything that is seen and things that are not seen. ... He made all the powers of heaven. ... Everything was made by Him and for Him.

They seek to characterize believers as a clear threat to society

Acts 16:17-21 New Living Translation

This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." ... 18 And this she did for many days. ... But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." ... And he came out that very hour. ... 19 But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. ... 20 And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, **being Jews**, exceedingly trouble our city; ... 21 and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, - being Romans, to receive or observe." (*MSG - "These men are disturbing the peace - dangerous Jewish agitators - subverting our Roman law and order."*)

They seek to elevate mankind over God

1 Samuel 8:6-7 New Life Version

But Samuel was not pleased when they said, "Give us a king to rule over us." ... And Samuel prayed to the Lord. ... 7 The Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in all they say to you. ... For they have not turned away from you. ... They have turned away from Me, that I should not be king over them.

They seek to destroy our founding documents

Declaration of Independence

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which *the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them*, a decent respect to

the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, - **that all men are created equal**, - *that they are endowed by their Creator - with certain unalienable Rights, - that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.* --That to secure these rights, *Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed*, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

What is the Course we need to Take?

Strive to become Spiritual

Zechariah 4:6 New King James Version

So, he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts.

Use all weapons at your disposal

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 The Voice

For though we walk in the world, - we do not fight according to this world's rules of warfare. ...
4 The weapons of the war we're fighting are not of this world but are powered by God and effective at tearing down the strongholds erected against His truth. ... 5 We are demolishing arguments and ideas, every high-and-mighty philosophy that pits itself against the knowledge of the one true God. ... We are taking prisoners of every thought, every emotion, and subduing them into obedience to the Anointed One.