

Morally and spiritually, it does feel as though we are living in perilous times. With the global events of the last 4 years, many are starting to wonder if we are moving into the End Times. Christian persecution is on the rise around the world as well as right here in Canada, with pastors being targeted and jailed for exercising their freedom of religion when it comes into conflict with man's "laws". However, people of faith have started waking up and asking, are we here for "*such a time as this*" (Esther 4:14)? But what time is it, and how long do we have to wait to see righteousness restored in our land?

As it says in Ecclesiastes 3, "To EVERYTHING there is a SEASON, and a TIME for every matter or purpose under heaven." God's timing is impeccable. He is never early nor ever late in fulfilling His promises. "For the revelation awaits **an appointed time**; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay." (Habakkuk 2:3). So, like the sons of Issachar, we must have understanding of the times, to know what we ought to do (1 Chron. 12:32).

A new season is upon us – the holy season in which we commemorate the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a sacred time on both Christian and Jewish calendars. In fact, the victory on the cross was won, when Jesus became for us, the Passover Lamb, "who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29); then rising on the third day, became the firstfruits from the dead, offering eternal life to those who receive Him. Jesus literally died on Passover, was raised on the Feast of Firstfruits and then sent His Holy Spirit on Pentecost (Shavuot) to fill the Body of Christ with His power and His presence, making us the Temple of the Holy Spirit with the law written on our hearts.

The precision with which God orchestrated the timing of these events is marvelous. Not only did He set the sun and the moon in the sky to separate the day from the night, but He also "*let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years*" (Genesis 1:14). There is a holiness even in time and God adds His anointing and power to these holy-days (holidays). In the book of Leviticus, God instructs Moses on setting up sacred spaces in both time and place. The sacred place is the Temple and the sacred times are the Moedim (appointed times – Leviticus 23). These instructions on times and seasons, form the Biblical calendar which provide God's people a rhythm and pattern to life.

As we can see, timing is significant to God and carries important meaning. Jesus fulfilled many Messianic prophesies during these sacred Appointed Times. In so doing, the stories of the Old Testament of the exodus out of Egypt in the natural, have a deeper revelation in the New Testament of the exodus out of the Egypt of sin (1 Cor. 10:1-13), in the spiritual. That is why the **A4C Prayer Walk4Revival** campaign is planned to run between Passover and Pentecost. As we walk and pray in the natural, under the banner of Christ, we believe the spiritual atmosphere will change.

In the upcoming holiday season, we have a narrow window of time to be especially fervent in prayer for our communities – to be "*doers of the word and not hearers only*" (James 1:22-25). The seven weeks between the two holidays are observed in Jewish and Messianic communities as the Counting of the Omer according to Leviticus 23:15-16. During these days, the people reflect on the holiness of God and His character, and are called to sanctify themselves for personal revelation by engaging in seven weeks of repentance to be released from bondage of sin and to turn to freedom in Christ.

Therefore, we expect that "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16) and we stand on the promise of God in 2 Chronicles 7:14 that," If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

As we endeavour to bring prayer back to the places of authority and influence in our communities, we believe that the evil strongholds and "*every high-minded thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God*" (2 Corinthian 10:5) will crumble just as the walls of Jericho came tumbling down at the shout of praise from God's people.

Whatever times we are in, we are told in scripture that "the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night ... But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet" and "May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it." (1Thessalonians 5) Amen!