

For Such a Time as This

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Pastor E. Keith Hassell

Esther 4:13–14 (NKJV) “And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: ‘Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king’s palace any more than all the other Jews. ¹⁴ For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?’”

God has always had a *people*. He has a *covenant* people. In the Old Testament it was Israel. In the New Testament it is the Church. The apostle Peter declared, “*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*”¹ God has a special people set apart for Himself.

Not only does God have a *people*, He also has a *plan*. The Lord declared, “*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*”²

God has always had a *remnant*. A remnant is “a portion of people left after a disaster, especially a disaster identified with divine judgment.”³ The remnant refers to those who remain faithful to God despite suffering and who experience restoration in the end. Noah and his family were such a remnant: “*This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.*”⁴ Noah was righteous in his generation: “*Then the Lord said to Noah, ‘Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.’*”⁵

This remnant is the means through which God will be glorified in the earth. The remnant can say with all confidence that they are placed in their time, place, and generation to fulfill God’s work in the earth. We too can be confident that we are born for “such a time as this”. We are born at the right time in history, the right place on earth, and to the right family. We are even born into the right circumstances, whether they be political, economic, social, or religious.

Like King David, we are born to serve our generation: “*For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption;*”⁶ We were not born to pursue our own plans and pleasures. Each of us is placed upon this earth with a divine destiny that we will either embrace or reject.

We are not only called to serve our own generation, but we are called to prepare the next generation to serve their own generation. Failure to preserve and pass down our faith means the end of our legacy of faith. We are always one generation away from paganism.

In his inaugural address as Governor of California on January 5, 1967, Ronald Reagan said: “Freedom is a fragile thing and is never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people. Those who have known freedom and then lost it have never known it again.” The psalmist highlights the responsibility of each generation in Psalm 78:1–8 (NKJV) when he said: “*Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. ² I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, ³ which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. ⁴ We will not hide them from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done. ⁵ For He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children; ⁶ that the generation to come might know them, the children who would be born, that they may arise and*

¹ 1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)

² Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)

³ The Lexham Bible Dictionary

⁴ Genesis 6:9 (NKJV)

⁵ Genesis 7:1 (NKJV)

⁶ Acts 13:36 (NKJV)

declare them to their children, ⁷ that they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments; ⁸ and may not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation that did not set its heart aright, and whose spirit was not faithful to God.” In Psalm 102:11–18 (NKJV) the psalmist declares: “My days are like a shadow that lengthens, and I wither away like grass. ¹² But You, O Lord, shall endure forever, and **the remembrance of Your name to all generations.** ¹³ You will arise and have mercy on Zion; for the time to favor her, yes, the set time, has come. ¹⁴ For Your servants take pleasure in her stones, and show favor to her dust. ¹⁵ So the nations shall fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth Your glory. ¹⁶ For the Lord shall build up Zion; He shall appear in His glory. ¹⁷ He shall regard the prayer of the destitute, and shall not despise their prayer. ¹⁸ **This will be written for the generation to come, that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord.”**

If we believe that we are born for such a time as this, we must ask ourselves a few important questions. First, will we leave a legacy of faith for the next generation to follow and succeed, or will we leave a legacy of folly for them to follow and fail? Second, will we leave a mark to which the next generation can rise or will we leave a mess which they cannot overcome? Will the next generation bless us or curse us for the legacy that we have left behind?

How can we serve this generation? First, we must work to save this generation! Leonard Ravenhill once said, “There is but one way to save this generation. It is the way of Christ, and the outpouring of the Holy Ghost.” The way of Christ not the way of this world. It is not the way of self. It is not the way of lukewarm Christianity. It is the way of sold-out followers of Jesus Christ. Nothing less will impact or convince this skeptical generation. The outpouring of the Holy Ghost took place on the Day of Pentecost. The apostle Peter stood up and said, “But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ **‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.** ¹⁸ **And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy.** ¹⁹ *I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke.* ²⁰ *The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.* ²¹ *And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.*”⁷

What does the outpouring of the Holy Ghost produce? First, it produces an *empowered* people. God’s people are filled with the Spirit of God. They do not speak their own words; they speak or “prophesy” the word of the Lord. They do not follow a vision of their own heart; they see and follow the vision of God. They do not follow their own dreams; they see and embrace the dream of God.

Second, it produces an *eschatological* people. Eschatology pertains to the study of the end times. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit characterizes the last days generation. They understand that they are living in the time prior to Christ’s return. Therefore, they do not build their lives on this world which is passing away. They understand that the last days point to a last day. They live in light of eternity and of Christ’s soon return.

Third, it produces an *evangelistic* people. They understand that the lost are not prepared for the judgment to come. They understand that time is running out. Therefore, they are on an urgent rescue mission to share the gospel with those who are perishing.

It is not a mistake that God placed you in this generation. Will you run or will you rise? Will you stand up or will you sit down? Will you speak or will you be silent? Will you be a hero of faith or a villain of fear? Will you fight or will you flee? Will you be an answer to the cry of this generation? Will you serve the LORD and your generation? Will you prepare the next generation to serve their generation? Now is the time! God has a plan! You were born for such a time as this!

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⁷ Acts 2:16–21 (NKJV)