

The background features a dark blue gradient with a starry sky pattern. Overlaid on this are several faint, light-colored diagrams of celestial bodies and orbits. These include circles with arrows indicating rotation or orbital paths, and larger circular arcs with numerical labels (140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260) representing degrees of longitude or latitude. The text is centered and rendered in a white, serif font with a yellow drop shadow.

Understanding *the* Times and Seasons

Part I

Key Verse

1 Chronicles 12:32 (NLT)

*32 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.*

Introduction

Many people go through life, simply “reacting to headlines“ and “reacting to hearsay”

People Are More REACTIONARY than VISIONARY

Reactionary People

- ❖ Move Based On Pressure
- ❖ Respond Emotionally Rather than Strategically
- ❖ Live In Response To Crisis Rather Than Conviction
 - ❖ Make Decisions After Problems Explode
- ❖ Waiting Until Something Breaks Before They Respond

Visionary People

- ❖ Discern Patterns Before The Problems Surface
 - ❖ Anticipate Shifts
- ❖ Move Based On Revelation, Not Reaction
 - ❖ Prepare Before Pressure Arrives

This is Why We Are Studying The Men Of Issachar

Because The Kingdom of God is not advanced by **Reactionary Believers** ~ It Is Advanced By **Discerning Believers**

God Needs Kingdom Citizens Who Understand What Time It Is Spiritually

God Needs Kingdom Citizens Who Recognize Divine Shifts

God Needs Kingdom Citizens Who Know The Appropriate Response At The Appropriate Time

Introduction

Look At The Context

Saul's Reign Is Collapsing ~ David Has Been Anointed To Be Next
Israel Has Divided Loyalty
Transition Is Taking Place

Yesterday is Gone ~ Tomorrow Is Not Here
Do You Understanding The Value of Your Right Now Decision... Do You Know What To Do

This Why Many Churches Struggle
Distinguish the Personal from the Prophetic
2 Timothy 4:3-5

For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching.
They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers
who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.
4) They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

5BUT YOU SHOULD KEEP A CLEAR MIND IN EVERY SITUATION. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord.
Work at telling others the Good News AND fully carry out the ministry God has given you.

This Requires...
Confidence ~ Clarity ~ Courage

Their Confidence In Their Role And Responsibility

1 Chronicles 12:32 (NLT)

32 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.

Do You Know Your Role and Responsibility When It Comes To The Kingdom?

Do You Understand Your Purpose?

Look Back At All The Tribes

1 Chronicles 12:23 (NLT)

*23 These are the numbers of armed warriors who joined David at Hebron. They were all eager to see David become king instead of Saul, **JUST AS THE LORD HAD PROMISED.***

Judah ~ 6,800 shield and spear warriors

Simeon ~ 7,100 fighting men

Levi ~ 4,600 soldiers + Jehoida with 3,700

Benjamin ~ 3,000 (Saul's own tribe)

Ephraim ~ 20,800 brave warriors "famous in their clan"

Nephtali ~ 1,000 officers + 37,000 with shiel and spear

Dan ~ 28,600 warriors all prepared for battle

Asher ~ 40,000 battle ready troops

Issachar ~ 200 men who UNDERSTOOD the times and KNEW what to do.....

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*They Did Not Have Weapons Mentioned... They Were Not A Large Troop
YET.... They are mentioned and they are necessary
Every tribe sent warriors. Issachar sent thinkers.*

SPIRITUAL MATURITY INCLUDES CONFIDENCE IN YOUR KINGDOM ROLE.

*Every other tribe brought a large capacity ~ Issachar brought Clarity
Every other tribe brought ammunition ~ Issachar brought answers*

*You can have all the resources in the world ~ Budget, talent, platform, people
And still move in the wrong direction because you lack the understanding of the times and seasons*

*Surround Yourself With People Who Bring A Unique Skillset To Your Life
All Of Them Are Needed But In SOME SEASONS They May Not Be Necessary*

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Do You Know Your Role and Responsibility When It Comes To The Kingdom?

*When Everything Is Stable, You Can Function Without **Knowing Your Purpose**
Routine Is Good When The Storms Aren't Raging {Pandemic}*

*But With New Seasons, New Assignments
You Need **Clarity**, You Need **Understanding***

*The Men Of Issachar **Knew Their Purpose**, Therefore They Were **Not Intimidated By Others**
They Were Confident In How and Why They Were Created*

*In This Season You May Not Need More **Activity** ~ You May Need To **Clarify The Assignment**
In This Season You May Not Need More **Partners** ~ You May Need To **Know Your Purpose***

Understanding Your Purpose Will Increase Your Value and Clarify Your Assignment

Their Clarity About The Moment

1 Chronicles 12:32 (NLT)

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BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING IS...

*Spiritual perception ~ **Insight guided by God** ~ **Discernment beyond surface appearances**
This is *the ability* to see beneath the surface and to see what is not immediately obvious*

*Understanding Is not **optional**...It is foundational*

Proverbs 4:7 (NIV)

*7 Wisdom is supreme; therefore, get wisdom. **Though it cost all you have, GET UNDERSTANDING.***

Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)

18 "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.

*19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; **DO YOU NOT PERCEIVE IT?***

*If you do not have **Spiritual Perception**, You Will Miss What God Is Doing*

So Understanding is not just seeing a thing....

*It is seeing what a thing is connected to.... **What it points toward.....** What does it demand of me*

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Most People Are Confused About Wisdom, Knowledge, and Understanding

- *Knowledge* is What You Know
- *Understanding* Is What You Do With What You Know
- *Wisdom* is Knowing When and How to Apply It

UNDERSTANDING IS THE BRIDGE BETWEEN INFORMATION AND ACTION

*The Word "**times**" here means appointed times, seasons, critical junctures.*

*This is not merely clock time but **kairos-type moments**
It Is Possible To Do The Right Thing At The Wrong Time*

Example

Ecclesiastes 3:1 ~ For There is a Time for Everything, And A Season for Every Activity Under The Heavens

Keep vs. Throw Away

Build vs. Tear Down

Search vs. Quit Looking

Plant vs. Harvest

Embrace vs. Turn Away

Cry vs. Laugh

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*Do You Understand The Movements Of God ~ What is God Doing/Building In This Season...
This Requires Intimacy ~ Not Just Observation*

Amos 3:7 (NLT)

*7 Indeed, the Sovereign Lord never does anything until he **reveals his plans** to his servants the prophets.*

*God Always Telegraphs His Movements To Those Who Are Close Enough
To Receive The Signal*

Flesh vs. Spirit Movements

*You Are Praying About Give Me More Money, **Give Me More Stuff...**
God Gives You More Insight To What He Is Doing*

Example ~ God Gave Joseph Insight To What Was About To Happen In The Land Of Egypt

Their Courage To Do The Right Thing

1 Chronicles 12:32 (NLT)

32 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.

Understanding was not the goal. ACTION WAS...

Jesus Told his Disciples...I Know You Don't Understand... Based On Your Actions

Understanding Without Action Is Incomplete

Spiritual maturity is not just recognizing the times ~ It is responding correctly to them.

The Kingdom Impact Extends Beyond The Individual

Esther 4:13-16 (NLT)

13 Mordecai sent this reply to Esther:

“Don't think for a moment that because you're in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed.

14 If you keep quiet AT A TIME LIKE THIS, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such A TIME AS THIS?”

15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai:

16 “Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king.

IF I MUST DIE, I MUST DIE.”

Their Courage To Do The Right Thing

Biblical Example

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NLT)

*1 You should **KNOW THIS**, Timothy, that in **the last days** there will be **very difficult times**.*

*2 For people will love only themselves and their money. **THEY** will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. **THEY** will consider nothing sacred. 3 **THEY** will be unloving and unforgiving; **THEY** will slander others and have no self-control. **THEY** will be cruel and hate what is good. 4 **THEY** will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. 5 **THEY** will act religious, but **THEY** will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!*

2 Timothy 3:10-15 (NLT)

*10 **BUT YOU, Timothy, CERTAINLY KNOW** what I teach, and how I live, and what my purpose in life is.*

***YOU KNOW** my faith, my patience, my love, and my endurance.*

*11 **YOU KNOW** how much persecution and suffering I have endured. **YOU KNOW** all about how I was persecuted in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra—but the Lord rescued me from all of it.*

12 Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

13 But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will deceive others and will themselves be deceived.

*14 **BUT YOU MUST** remain faithful to the things you have been taught.*

***YOU KNOW** they are true, for **YOU KNOW** you can trust those who taught you.*

15 You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.

In Conclusion

Their Confidence In Their Role And Responsibility

Their Clarity About The Moment

Their Courage To Do The Right Thing