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**H**AVE YOU EVER NOTICED HOW OFTEN WE USE THE WORD TIME in our everyday conversation? Not only are we acutely aware of the passage of time, but also our speech is littered with references to the characteristics of time and our lack of it. We refer to time in countless expressions and figures of speech, so we are obviously preoccupied with the concept.

Consider some of the ways we reference time:

- "Time waits for no man."
- "Time is money."
- "Time marches on."
- "You're wasting time."
- "Time is of the essence."
- "In the nick of time."
- "I am pressured because of lack of time."
- "I do not have enough hours in a day."

Celestial bodies—the sun, moon, planets, and stars—have provided us a reference for measuring the passage of time throughout the existence of mankind. Ancient civilizations relied upon the apparent motion of these bodies through the sky to determine seasons, months, and years. We know little about the details of timekeeping in prehistoric eras, but wherever we turn up records and artifacts, we usually discover that in every culture there was someone preoccupied with measuring and recording the passage of time. There was such a

fascination with light, day, dark, and night that whole worship systems were formed around time!

Ice Age hunters in Europe more than twenty thousand years ago scratched lines and gouged holes in sticks and bones, possibly counting the days between phases of the moon. Five thousand years ago, Sumerians in the Tigris-Euphrates valley in modern-day Iraq had a calendar that divided the year into thirty-day months, divided the day into twelve periods (each corresponding to two of our hours), and divided these periods into thirty parts (each like four of our minutes). We have no written records of Stonehenge, built more than four thousand years ago in England, but its alignments show that its purposes apparently included the determination of seasonal or celestial events, such as lunar eclipses, solstices, and so on.<sup>1</sup>

Most people hold one of two views on the meaning of time. The *realist's view*, which was espoused by Sir Isaac Newton, maintains that time is linear and part of the fundamental structure of the universe. According to this view, time is a dimension that can be measured and contains a sequence of events. The contrasting view of time, embraced by Gottfried Leibniz and Immanuel Kant, contends that time is part of a mental measuring system and cannot be objectively measured. According to this concept, time is not a line along which objects and events move sequentially, but rather it is an intellectual way to measure events. In other words, time isn't a "real," measurable thing.

Beyond these two views of time and its measurement, there are other aspects of time that have intrigued man since the Garden of Eden. I love the first four chapters of Genesis. They are mysterious yet concrete. They develop the concept of family in space and time. One concept of time in the garden is the *cyclical nature of time: the repetition of seasons in nature and, consequently, in the life of man.*

There is the philosophical concept of time called *fatalism*. A good deal of work in the philosophy of time has been produced by people worried about fatalism, which can be understood as the thesis that *whatever will happen in the future is already unavoidable*. In other words, no human is able to prevent it from occurring. Oh, my! Wouldn't you hate to live

with that philosophy of life? However, that could explain some people's negative attitudes. Many religious groups have adopted this belief of time. Why pray? Whatever is going to happen will happen, so just wait it out and hope for the best. Love God, but never trust Him to change the events of mankind. Just go blindly into the night, and perhaps day will break again.

There is the idea that time itself can be bridged. This idea includes the concept of time travel and marries time with space. In the children's classic by Madeleine L'Engle, *A Wrinkle in Time*, the protagonists in the story are transported through time and space by three angelic personages in order to rescue their father from an evil entity on another planet. In order to reach their extraterrestrial destination, these personages "wrinkle" time and space to shorten the time and distance between Earth and the planet of interest. In the chapter titled "The Tesseract," the "angels" explain how time and space are linear and can be folded back upon themselves, thereby shortening the distance between two points. This is interesting, but I am really not sure of the folding-back part of the theory. Fold back too much, and you will live in a world where you are not sure whether you are coming or going. Actually, *déjà vu* will become a confusing phenomenon.

Then, of course, there is the *Philip situation* in the Book of Acts! I love this. I do not fully understand the scenario in my mind, but I embrace the miraculous happening and know that God could do this again today. Philip was "caught away." Time and space were defied. The full account is given in Acts 8:38-40:

So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.

Philip completes one mission, prompted by the Spirit of God, and then is *caught up* and carried to another mission thirty-four miles away, ready to begin his next assignment. How could this happen? Did an angel carry him like in the science-fiction realm? As much as I travel, approximately two hundred thousand miles a year, I wish I could tap into this.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Since so many are preoccupied with the concept of time, consider each of these questions:

- What is the right context of time?
- How can I interpret time if I do not even understand time?
- What if there was a time freeze?
- Is there such a phenomenon as time travel?
- Is time travel permitted by the laws of logic, nature, and metaphysics?
- Is our thinking about time and space too concrete?
- If the big bang theory was the true account of the beginning of the universe, did time begin with a big bang?
- Are space and time important?
- Can I move from one dimension of time into eternal time?

These questions can lead us into a realm of reasoning and actually get us in a loop that we cannot figure out. Therefore, let's get a little more personal.

- Does time control you?
- Can you *see* into a different dimension?

- Do you understand how to maneuver through societal change and not allow those changes to overtake you?
- Do you feel manipulated by time?
- Does time seem to be an enemy to you?
- Do you feel captured by time?
- Did some force change time around you and cause you to feel imprisoned by the change?
- Do you believe you have a future that is good?
- Does your present control your future?
- Does your past control your present and leave you confused about your future?

I could go on and on—and I will as we move through the pages ahead! Here is the real question that I want to address in the pages ahead: *Is there a Creator who transcends and enters time to commune with His children so they may efficiently walk in time?* When you mess up in one season, can He make you capable of redeeming the times or buying back wasted time? Can He extend your horizon line and give you a glimpse of what will be in days ahead? In the midst of evil days, can He reveal remedies that will cause man, His most marvelous creation, to walk without fear in victory?

I will choose this latter premise because the theory has become a reality in my own life. I will attempt to explain some of His ways that He has revealed to me in my short life journey with this wonderful Creator of time and space. In this book, I hope to help you make your transitions from one point in time to another, understanding that, by faith, you can succeed in crossing over into a new dimension of success.

I am known for being prophetic. Actually, the Bible says that we all are prophetic. However, it is one thing to have a *sense* of what will happen ahead or to give wisdom and counsel for a present situation in order to *foretell* what is going to happen and have some recognition