

MY SEED FAITH



GROWING FOOD THAT GIVES LIFE
WRITTEN BY NATALIE NAKASI



ABOUT MY SEED FAITH

MY SEED FAITH IS A DEVOTIONAL DESIGNED TO ASSIST YOU AS YOU GROW IN YOUR CHRISTIAN FAITH. FAITH-BUILDING INVOLVES STUDYING AND INTERPRETING THE BIBLE SO THAT YOU CAN DISCOVER FOR YOURSELF WHO GOD, JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT ARE. AND WHAT IT MEANS TO TRUST IN THEM. TO BUILD FAITH, YOU MUST FIRST KNOW WHO GOD IS.

KNOWING WHO HE IS BUILDS CONFIDENCE. WHEN YOU ARE CONFIDENT IN WHO GOD IS, THAT IS FAITH. HAVING FAITH ISN'T ALWAYS EASY. ALL CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE AT TIMES. BUT GROWTH IS POSSIBLE. MY SEED FAITH FOCUSES ON CULTIVATING FAITH. THE KIND OF FOOD THAT GIVES LIFE.



HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

IF YOU HAVE EVER GROWN A PLANT FROM A SEED, YOU KNOW THAT GROWTH TAKES TIME. TREAT THIS DEVOTIONAL LIKE A SEED YOU HAVE JUST PLANTED. 'WATER' IT BY TAKING NOTES, WHETHER WRITTEN, RECORDED, OR SHARED IN CONVERSATION WITH OTHERS. DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK TOUGH QUESTIONS. EVERY THOUGHT IS HELPFUL WHEN PROCESSING THE BIBLE, WHICH CAN OFTEN FEEL DENSE OR INTIMIDATING. TAKE YOUR TIME. RETURN TO THE SECTIONS IN THIS VOLUME OFTEN TO CHECK IN, JUST AS YOU WOULD WATCH A SEEDLING FOR THE FIRST SIGNS OF GROWTH.

EACH VOLUME EXAMINES SPECIFIC VERSES IN THE BIBLE TO REVEAL MORE ABOUT WHO GOD IS. INTERPRETATIONS AND QUESTIONS ARE PROVIDED TO HELP YOU REFLECT DEEPLY ON THE TEXT. CONSIDER THESE INSIGHTS ALONGSIDE YOUR OWN PERSONAL REFLECTIONS AND THE LESSONS YOU ARE DISCOVERING ABOUT GOD'S CHARACTER. EXPLORING THE BIBLE IN THIS WAY CAN HELP YOU GROW A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE TEXT AND ALLOW YOUR FAITH TO FEEL MORE GROUNDED.





INTERPRETING THE TIMES B2V2



INTERPRETING THE TIMES B2V2

(17) ON HIS ARRIVAL. JESUS FOUND THAT LAZARUS HAD ALREADY BEEN IN THE TOMB FOR FOUR DAYS. (18) NOW BETHANY WAS LESS THAN TWO MILES FROM JERUSALEM. (19) AND MANY JEWS HAD COME TO MARTHA AND MARY TO COMFORT THEM IN THE LOSS OF THEIR BROTHER. (20) WHEN MARTHA HEARD THAT JESUS WAS COMING. SHE WENT OUT TO MEET HIM. BUT MARY STAYED AT HOME.

(21) 'LORD.' MARTHA SAID TO JESUS 'IF YOU HAD BEEN HERE. MY BROTHER WOULD NOT HAVE DIED. (22) BUT I KNOW THAT EVEN NOW GOD WILL GIVE YOU WHATEVER YOU ASK.'

(23) JESUS SAID TO HER. 'YOUR BROTHER WILL RISE AGAIN.'

(24) MARTHA ANSWERED. 'I KNOW HE WILL RISE AGAIN IN THE RESURRECTION AT THE LAST DAY.'

(25) JESUS SAID TO HER. 'I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE. THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN ME WILL LIVE. EVEN THOUGH THEY DIE: (26) AND WHOEVER LIVES BY BELIEVING IN ME WILL NEVER DIE. DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?



INTERPRETING THE TIMES B2V2

WHO DOES JESUS SAY THAT HE IS?

JESUS SAID. 'YOUR BROTHER WILL RISE AGAIN' TO MARTHA WHOSE BROTHER, LAZARUS, HAD DIED AND HAD BEEN BURIED FOR FOUR DAYS (JOHN 11:23:17). RECOGNIZING THAT DEATH IS NOT FINAL AND HER BELIEF IN LIFE AFTER DEATH MARTHA SAYS TO JESUS. 'I KNOW HE WILL RISE AGAIN IN THE RESURRECTION AT THE LAST DAY' (JOHN 11:24).

THEN JESUS SAYS TO HER THAT THAT DAY HAS COME AND SAYS. 'I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE. THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN ME WILL LIVE. EVEN THOUGH THEY DIE. AND WHOEVER LIVES BY BELIEVING IN ME WILL NEVER DIE' (JOHN 11:25-26).

JESUS WAS REMINDING MARTHA WHO HE WAS TO HUMANITY. A WAY TO SPIRITUAL LIFE-GIVING POWER. RESURRECTION POWER AND ETERNAL LIFE. THE ONE WHO HAS BEEN GIVEN AUTHORITY OVER DEATH AND OVER THE POWERS OF THIS WORLD.

WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF BELIEF?



TAKE A MOMENT TO DISCUSS





INTERPRETING THE TIMES B2V2

(2) WHEN JOHN, WHO WAS IN PRISON, HEARD ABOUT THE DEEDS OF THE MESSIAH, HE SENT HIS DISCIPLES (3) TO ASK HIM, 'ARE YOU THE ONE WHO IS TO COME, OR SHOULD WE EXPECT SOMEONE ELSE?'

(4) JESUS REPLIED, 'GO BACK AND REPORT TO JOHN WHAT YOU HEAR AND SEE: (5) THE BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT, THE LAME WALK, THOSE WHO HAVE LEPROSY ARE CLEANSED, THE DEAF HEAR, THE DEAD ARE RAISED, AND THE GOOD NEWS IS PROCLAIMED TO THE POOR'.



INTERPRETING THE TIMES B2V2

WHAT DO THESE SCRIPTURES SAY IS CHARACTERISTIC OF JESUS' MINISTRY?

JOHN, THE BAPTIST, BELIEVED THAT JESUS WAS WHO GOD HAD SENT TO BRING LIFE TO ALL. BUT WHEN HE WAS PUT INTO PRISON FOR PREACHING THAT PEOPLE SHOULD REPENT AND TURN BACK TO GOD, HE MAY HAVE HAD A MOMENT OF DOUBT IF JESUS WAS WHO GOD PROMISED. MATTHEW 11:2-3 SAYS THAT WHEN HE HEARD ABOUT THE SIGNS JESUS WAS PERFORMING, HE SENT HIS DISCIPLES TO ASK HIM, 'ARE YOU THE ONE WHO IS TO COME, OR SHOULD WE EXPECT SOMEONE ELSE' (MATTHEW 11:2-3)?

JESUS TELLS JOHN'S DISCIPLES THAT WHAT WAS PROPHESED ABOUT THE MESSIAH IS HAPPENING AND TELLS THEM TO GO BACK AND REPORT TO JOHN ABOUT THE SIGNS THAT THEY WERE WITNESSING. 'THE BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT, THE LAME WALK, THOSE WHO HAVE LEPROSY ARE CLEANSED, THE DEAF HEAR, THE DEAD ARE RAISED, AND THE GOOD NEWS IS PROCLAIMED TO THE POOR. BLESSED IS ANYONE WHO DOES NOT STUMBLE ON ACCOUNT OF ME' (MATTHEW 11:4-6).

JESUS WAS SAYING, 'IF YOUR LEADER NEEDS A SIGN, BE A WITNESS AND TELL THEM EXACTLY WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN ME DO: THAT IT IS EXACTLY WHAT WAS SPOKEN BY THE PROPHETS AND THE PSALMS THAT THE MESSIAH WOULD DO.



INTERPRETING THE TIMES B2V2

WHAT DO THESE SCRIPTURES SAY IS CHARACTERISTIC OF JESUS' MINISTRY?

JESUS HAD BEEN PERFORMING PHYSICAL WONDERS IN HIS TIME ON EARTH AND HIS POWER TO HEAL AND BRING LIFE INTO DEAD SITUATIONS IS STILL ACCESIBLE TO PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE.

HIS POWER IS AT WORK IN THE PHYSICAL WORLD AND IN THE SPIRITUAL WORLD. JESUS HAS SAID THAT HE CAME TO OPEN BLIND EYES AND DEAF EARS. PEOPLE WHO ARE UNABLE TO SEE OR UNDERSTAND WHO HE IS AND BRING THEM TO THAT KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING: AND HE IS ALSO ABLE TO PHYSICALLY HEAL PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE AND HAVE FAITH IN HIM.

THIS MESSAGE IS GOOD NEWS TO EVERYONE WHO HEARS IT AND BELIEVES THAT THE AUTHORITY AND POWER TO HEAL. RESURRECT. RECONCILE BACK TO GOD HAS COME THROUGH JESUS.

WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF
HEARING AND SEEING JESUS' WORK?



TAKE A MOMENT TO DISCUSS





INTERPRETING THE TIMES B2V2

(53) WHEN THEY HAD CROSSED OVER. THEY LANDED AT GENNESARET AND ANCHORED THERE. (54) AS SOON AS THEY GOT OUT OF THE BOAT. PEOPLE RECOGNIZED JESUS. (55) THEY RAN THROUGHOUT THAT WHOLE REGION AND CARRIED THE SICK ON MATS TO WHEREVER THEY HEARD HE WAS. (56) AND WHEREVER HE WENT. INTO VILLAGES. TOWNS. OR COUNTRYSIDE THEY PLACED THE SICK IN THE MARKETPLACES. THEY BEGGED HIM TO LET THEM TOUCH EVEN THE EDGE OF HIS CLOAK. AND ALL WHO TOUCHED IT WERE HEALED.

MARK 6:53-56



INTERPRETING THE TIMES B2V2

(54) HE SAID TO THE CROWD: 'WHEN YOU SEE A CLOUD RISING IN THE WEST. IMMEDIATELY YOU SAY. 'IT'S GOING TO RAIN.' AND IT DOES. (55) AND WHEN THE SOUTH WIND BLOWS. YOU SAY.

IT'S GOING TO BE HOT.' AND IT IS. (56) HYPOCRITES! YOU KNOW HOW TO INTERPRET THE APPEARANCE OF THE EARTH AND THE SKY. HOW IS IT THAT YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO INTERPRET THIS PRESENT TIME?



INTERPRETING THE TIMES B2V2

WHAT DO THESE SCRIPTURES SAY ABOUT PEOPLE WHO RECOGNIZE AND BELIEVE IN JESUS AND THOSE WHO DO NOT?

JESUS TRAVELLED PREACHING ABOUT THE LIFE-GIVING POWER THAT HE HAD: AND PEOPLE IN EVERY TOWN WHO BELIEVED IN HIM AND HAD FAITH ACCESSED HIS POWER TO HEAL, FORGIVE AND TO GIVE LIFE. IN MARK 6:53-56 JESUS WAS TRAVELING TO BETHESDA AND CROSSED THE SEA OF GALILEE AND LANDED AT GENNESARET AND ANCHORED THERE. AS SOON AS JESUS GOT OUT OF THE BOAT, PEOPLE RECOGNIZED HIM.

SOME PEOPLE CANNOT RECOGNIZE WHO JESUS IS EVEN WITH SIGNS AND MIRACLES. THEY CANNOT SEE THAT JESUS' MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION BRINGS LIFE. IN LUKE 12:54-59 JESUS IS SPEAKING TO A CROWD THAT HAS GATHERED TO HEAR HIM. AND HE IS EXPLAINING HOW PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE OTHER SIGNS ABOUT WHAT IS TO COME BUT CANNOT RECOGNIZE WHO HE IS ALTHOUGH HE IS THERE DOING WONDERS THROUGH GOD'S POWER.



INTERPRETING THE TIMES B2V2

WHAT DO THESE SCRIPTURES SAY ABOUT PEOPLE WHO RECOGNIZE AND BELIEVE IN JESUS AND THOSE WHO DO NOT?

JESUS SAYS THE REASON THEY CANNOT RECOGNIZE THAT HE HAS BEEN SENT FROM GOD AND IS THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PROMISE OF SALVATION IS BECAUSE EVERY WORD OF GOD'S SCRIPTURE HAS TO BE FULFILLED. IN ROMANS 11:7-10 PAUL QUOTES TWO PASSAGES THAT PROPHESED THAT PEOPLE WOULD REJECT JESUS AND HIS MESSAGE OF SALVATION.

'BUT TO THIS DAY THE LORD HAS NOT GIVEN YOU A MIND THAT UNDERSTANDS OR EYES THAT SEE OR EARS THAT HEAR'

DEUTERONOMY 29:4

'MAY THE TABLE SET BEFORE THEM BECOME A SNARE: MAY IT BECOME RETRIBUTION AND A TRAP. MAY THEIR EYES BE DARKENED SO THEY CANNOT SEE. AND THEIR BACKS BE BENT FOREVER'

PSALMS 69:22-23

THESE PASSAGES EXPLAIN THAT SOME PEOPLE WILL NOT COME TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF WHO JESUS IS. THEY WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THEIR NEED FOR RECONCILIATION TO GOD.



INTERPRETING THE TIMES B2V2

WHAT DO THESE SCRIPTURES SAY ABOUT PEOPLE WHO RECOGNIZE AND BELIEVE IN JESUS AND THOSE WHO DO NOT?

WHEN THE PSALMS PROPHECIES THAT THEIR TABLES WILL BECOME A SNARE. A TRAP AND A STUMBLING BLOCK. IT IS SAYING THAT PEOPLE WHO REJECT JESUS' MESSAGE OF SALVATION AND CHOOSE TO BELIEVE AND PUT THEIR FAITH IN WHAT CANNOT SAVE. THEIR REJECTION WILL CAUSE THEM TO MISS GOD'S GIFT OF SALVATION. THEIR BELIEF IN WHAT CANNOT SAVE WILL BE WHAT CLOUDS THEIR VISION AND THEIR HEARTS AND KEEPS THEM CHAINED TO A LIFE THAT IS MARKED BY A DARKNESS THAT MISGUIDES THEM. ACTS 17:27 SAYS. GOD DID THIS SO THAT THEY WOULD SEE THAT GOD IS GREATER THAN WHAT THEY HAVE CHOSEN TO TRUST AND WHEN THEY SEE THE POWER OF JESUS THEY WILL CHOSE TO SEEK HIM AND PERHAPS REACH OUT FOR HIM AND FIND HIM. THOUGH HE IS NOT FAR FROM ANY ONE OF US (ACTS 17:27).

WHAT DO THESE SCRIPTURES
TELL US ABOUT THE POWER OF
BELIEVING IN JESUS?



TAKE A MOMENT TO DISCUSS





INTERPRETING THE TIMES B2V2

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF INTERPRETING THE TIMES?

JESUS USES THE METAPHOR OF INTERPRETING SIGNS OF THE WEATHER TO HELP PEOPLE WHO ARE LISTENING UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE ABLE TO INTERPRET WHAT THE SIGN OF HIS ARRIVAL MEANS.

HIS ARRIVAL IS THE BEGINNING OF THE LAST DAYS: AND WHAT FOLLOWS HIS ARRIVAL IS GOD'S JUDGEMENT ON EARTH. THE LAST DAYS REFERS TO THE FINAL DAYS OF EARTH AND ALSO AN INDIVIDUAL'S LAST DAY AND WHEN THAT DAY ARRIVES. EVERYONE WILL STAND BEFORE GOD: AND THE ONE WHO BELIEVES JESUS' MESSAGE OF SALVATION WILL LIVE. EVEN THOUGH THEY DIE.



INTERPRETING THE TIMES B2V2

(57) 'WHY DON'T YOU JUDGE FOR YOURSELVES
WHAT IS RIGHT? (58) AS YOU ARE GOING WITH
YOUR ADVERSARY TO THE MAGISTRATE. TRY
HARD TO BE RECONCILED ALONG THE WAY. OR
YOUR ADVERSARY MAY DRAG YOU OFF TO THE
JUDGE. AND THE JUDGE TURN YOU OVER TO THE
OFFICER. AND THE OFFICER THROW YOU IN
PRISON. (59) I TELL YOU. YOU WILL NOT GET
OUT UNTIL YOU HAVE PAID THE LAST PENNY'.

LUKE 12:57-59



INTERPRETING THE TIMES B2V2

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF INTERPRETING THE TIMES?

IN ANTICIPATION OF GOD'S DAY OF JUDGMENT. JESUS COUNCILS PEOPLE TO BE RECONCILED BACK TO GOD. NOT AS AN ADVERSARY BUT AS THE CREATOR. THE ONE TO WHOM YOU BELONG. THE GOD OF MERCY AND LOVE WHO OUT OF HIS LOVE HAS GIVEN US HIS GIFT OF LIFE: SALVATION THROUGH JESUS.

ACTS 17:29-31 SAYS THAT. 'WE ARE GOD'S OFFSPRING: WE SHOULD NOT THINK THAT THE DIVINE BEING IS LIKE GOLD OR SILVER OR STONE--OR ANY IMAGE MADE BY HUMAN DESIGN AND SKILL'. MEANING USELESS WITHOUT POWER AND WITHOUT LIFE. 'IN THE PAST GOD OVERLOOKED SUCH IGNORANCE. BUT NOW HE COMMANDS ALL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE TO REPENT'. MEANING TO TURN FROM BELIEF IN WHAT CANNOT SAVE TO BELIEF IN HIS POWER TO SAVE. 'FOR HE HAS SET A DAY WHEN HE WILL JUDGE THE WORLD WITH JUSTICE BY (JESUS) WHO HE HAS APPOINTED. HE HAS GIVEN PROOF (THAT JESUS HAS THE POWER TO GIVE LIFE) BY RAISING HIM FROM THE DEAD'.

HOW DO WE KNOW THAT GOD IS
REAL AND THAT HIS WORD IS TRUE?



TAKE A MOMENT TO DISCUSS





INTERPRETING THE TIMES B2V2

WHAT DO THESE SCRIPTURES TELL US ABOUT WHO GOD IS?

ACTS 17:27. DEUTERONOMY 29:4. AND ISAIAH 29:10 ILLUSTRATE THAT GOD IS SOVEREIGN YET PATIENT. HE ALLOWS US TO EXPERIENCE THE EMPTINESS OF FALSE IDOLS SO THAT WE WILL RECOGNIZE OUR OWN SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS AND ULTIMATELY TURN AND SEEK HIS TRUE SALVATION.

ACTS 17:29 REVEALS GOD AS OUR CREATOR AND FATHER. TEACHING US THAT BECAUSE WE ARE HIS OFFSPRING. HIS DIVINE NATURE IS FAR SUPERIOR TO ANY HUMAN INVENTION THAT WE PUT OUR FAITH IN.

ACTS 17:31 ESTABLISHES GOD AS A RIGHTEOUS JUDGE. WHO HAS SET A DEFINITIVE DAY TO BRING JUSTICE TO THE WORLD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

WHAT ELSE HAVE THESE
SCRIPTURES REVEALED TO YOU
ABOUT GOD?



TAKE A MOMENT TO DISCUSS





INTERPRETING THE TIMES B2V2

WHAT DO THESE SCRIPTURES TELL US ABOUT WHO JESUS IS?

ACCORDING TO JOHN 11:23-25. JESUS IS GOD'S WORD OF LIFE AND HE SPEAKS LIFE WITH DIVINE AUTHORITY OVER DEATH PROMISING ETERNAL LIFE FOR EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM.

MATTHEW 11:5 AND MARK 6:56 REVEAL THAT JESUS IS THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PROMISES: AND HIS POWER TO HEAL SERVES AS LIVING PROOF THAT GOD'S SALVATION HAS ARRIVED.

LUKE 12:59 AND ACTS 17:31 REVEAL JESUS AS BOTH THE MEANS OF OUR RECONCILIATION AND WHO GOD HAS APPOINTED TO JUDGE THE WORLD WITH PERFECT RIGHTEOUSNESS.

WHAT ELSE HAVE THESE
SCRIPTURES REVEALED TO YOU
ABOUT GOD?



TAKE A MOMENT TO DISCUSS





INTERPRETING THE TIMES B2V2

REFLECTION

HOW HAVE THESE VERSES CHANGED THE WAY YOU SEE GOD. JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT? WHAT IS CLEARER TO YOU NOW. AND WHAT ARE YOU STILL WONDERING ABOUT? TAKE A MOMENT TO WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS OR TALK THEM THROUGH.



INTERPRETING THE TIMES B2V2

PRAYER

JESUS. DO NOT LET ME BE SOMEONE WHO CANNOT ACCEPT YOUR MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION. OPEN MY EYES WHEREVER THEY ARE DARKENED. OPEN MY EARS SO THAT I CAN HEAR YOUR WORD THAT GIVES LIFE. RESURRECT MY SPIRIT. RAISE MY UNDERSTANDING FROM TEACHINGS THAT DO NOT BRING LIFE AND GIVE ME THE LIFE THAT YOU HAVE PROMISED TO ALL BELIEVERS: ETERNAL LIFE. A LIFE FILLED WITH THE POWER OF YOUR HOLY SPIRIT AND BRING HEALING. RESTORE AND DELIVER ME. JUST AS YOUR WORD PROMISES THAT YOU WILL DO.





GROW FAITH
GROW FOOD

