



## It's About Time

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### Quick Backdrop

February 29. It comes around only every four years. Which is why it would be a bummer to be born on February 29, as many are. This being a leap year containing a February 29, it seems a good opportunity to reflect on the subject of time and a few things said about it in God's Word.

Think about this: The marking of time was created on Day Four in Genesis 1. While Days 1-3 are still labelled as "days" and evening and morning are mentioned, it wasn't until Day 4 when God placed the heavenly bodies that demarcate time. The marking of time—the earth around the sun, the wrinkles around our eyes—is part of our unique experience in this world, so it makes sense Scripture would touch on it a good bit.

### Digging In

Imagine for a moment that you are stepping into watching the creation of time, because, as we step into this passage, well, you are watching the creation of time. Linger on the passage below and reflect on every reference to any kind of time. If it's convenient, print the passage out, grab a pen, and do these suggestions that will help you ingest the detail.

- **Draw the face of a clock over every reference to time**
- **Consider using different colors to delineate each type of time reference (i.e., seasons vs. days)**

### Genesis 1:14-29 (NIV)

*<sup>14</sup> And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years," <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup> And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup> And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup> to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.*

What strikes you about one of creation's days being dedicated to creating time? Any thoughts about the fact that several things were created on Days 1-3 before the marking of time? You may even want to read Genesis 1:1-13 to see all that existed before the marking of time.

### Digging Deeper

In Psalm 90 the psalmist is captivated by time and introduces us to the discipline of being grateful for time, specifically, the amount of time that each of us is allotted. Take a minute to read Psalm 90 from your Bible or an online Bible. (However, save the last few verses, 12-17, for a special reflection below.) As you read the psalm, try to notice a couple things like:

- **references to time (draw a clock face over these references if you're reading a hard copy)**
- **references to God, many of which are connected to time**

After reading and noticing these references, pause for just a moment with these questions:

- What strikes you about the psalmist's take on time?

- Have you thought about time like it's thought about in this chapter?

Below are the final verses of the psalm, Psalm 90:12-17. These are pulled out as a speed bump to slow us down to ingest this psalm. As you experience these verses, use these prompts to ruminate on the passage. If it's convenient to print the passage, you may want to use the suggestions for marking to help notice detail. Let the words of these verses roll around in your heart until something makes you go "wow!"

- **Look for references to time (draw a clock face over these)**
- **Make note of any requests that are made (underline these)**

**Psalm 90:12-17 (NIV)**

*<sup>12</sup> Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. <sup>13</sup> Relent, Lord! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants. <sup>14</sup> Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. <sup>15</sup> Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble. <sup>16</sup> May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children. <sup>17</sup> May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands.*

Did you happen to notice two requests that are also attached to a promise? If not, that's okay. They're noted below. Take a couple of minutes to re-write these phrases in your own words, or speak them into a voice memo on your phone. Think about what these phrases are saying. Write down any "wow!" thoughts about the relationship between the request and the promise attached to it.

**REQUEST:** Teach us to number our days ...  
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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**PROMISE:** ... that we may gain a heart of wisdom.  
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**REQUEST:** Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love ...  
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**PROMISE:** ... that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.  
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**Putting Into Practice**

Reflect for a few minutes on these promises and requests. Let your heart be wowed by the humility of each request and the fulfilling day (and life!) you'd have if you enjoyed these promises. If you're doing this devotional before February 29, use that special day to pray these requests to God and count on these promises.