

# STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES

“The Path of the Just is as the Shining Light, Which Shineth  
More and More Unto the Perfect Day.”

SERIES II

## The Time is at Hand

*Graphical Edition*

“Times of Refreshing Shall Come From the Presence of the Lord:  
and He Shall Send Jesus Christ... Whom the Heavens Must Retain until  
THE TIMES OF RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS Which God Hath  
Spoken by the Mouth of All His Holy Prophets Since the World Began.”  
“Ye Brethren, Are Not in Darkness, That That Day Should Overtake  
You as a Thief” Acts 3:19–21; I Thess. 5:4.

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# To the King of Kings and Lord of Lords

IN THE INTEREST OF

**HIS CONSECRATED SAINTS,**

WAITING FOR THE ADOPTION,

—AND OF—

“ALL THAT IN EVERY PLACE CALL UPON THE LORD,”

“THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH,”

—AND OF—

THE GROANING CREATION, TRAVAILING AND WAITING FOR THE  
MANIFESTATION OF THE SONS OF GOD,

**THIS WORK IS DEDICATED.**

“To make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God.” “Wherein He hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself: that in the dispensation of the fulness of time He might gather together in one all things, under Christ.”

—Eph. 3:4, 5, 9; 1:8-10.

# PUBLISHERS NOTE

“The Time is at Hand” was written in 1889 by C.T. Russell. Its contents when read and squared with scripture have been persuasive and lasting to those wanting a deeper understanding of God’s word. Its message continues to be read and appreciated. Because of its vital message, the book has had an unabated demand. The time and chronological issues it delivers has stirred some controversy. But controversy is good since it evokes thought, analysis and application. Controversy is always confronted in the quest for God’s Truth, since it stirs thought and understanding.

The “Time is at Hand” gives a biblical and illustrated view of world history, world antiquity and world forecast in a global view. Here are over 150 illustrations, diagrams and graphics that intend to help clarify the concepts and interpretations originally instituted by the author. The basis of the book is a biblical detailed chronology which takes the reader from the beginning of human history to a period of time far into the future. If there is any contradiction between text and illustrations, the over-riding preference is for the text.

The value of graphical illustrations and diagrams to clarify spiritual concepts and phenomena has already been proven. Pictorial language, along with text, interacts and supplements each other to give greater clarity. The illustrations also help foreign readers who are not skilled in the English language. This book will eventually be translated into foreign languages.

All ideas have a history and a chronology. The history with its time features may contain little or no supporting secular documentation. Having little or no documentation does not disprove the idea. Its announcement and introduction requires validation for further confirmation. The Bible claims it is a verifiable document of ideas, culture, history and reality. This has been proven! After all, only 2 percent of history has been recorded; 98 percent is lost, thus losing 98 percent of the value of human experience. Nonetheless, the Bible is at least 27 percent quantitative. One cannot ignore scripture that has quantitative time-line projections from the past to the future. The only document that is verifiable from fact along with faith is the Bible. Some knowledge of history within the biblical context does enable us to improve our judgment as to the veracity of an idea. Thus, this book has become valuable for a deep and thorough understanding of chronological issues.

In 1916 a question meeting was held with C.T. Russell regarding this chronology. Here are some points from the author about features of this chronology.

1. Present truth is that truth that pertains to our time.
2. Perfection of knowledge is not a thing of the past but of the future. It is a lamp that shineth in a dark place until the day dawns.
3. A proper waiting attitude will quickly discern the truth when due.
4. Due time and order of every recorded feature of the divine plan and its time and season is manifested to the watching.
5. We have set forth the chronology not as infallible, but nevertheless declaring our confidence in it.
6. We neither urge nor insist upon our views as infallible, nor do we smite or abuse those who disagree; but regard as brethren all sanctified believers in the precious blood.
7. We pointed out that this chronology seems to be interwoven and interlocked with numerous prophecies.
8. The general facts are much more valuable and important than merely the day of the year respecting these facts.

9. Our expectations must not be allowed to weigh anything against the facts. We would look over the prophecies further to see if we could find an error in our interpretation.
10. Restitution blessings cannot come to the world until after the church has been glorified.
11. The time between when Babylon is cast off from favor, and the time when the plagues of trouble come upon her is a brief interval. There must first be the sealing of the servants of God in their foreheads.
12. We believe that chronology is a blessing. If it should wake us a few minutes or hours earlier in the morning than we otherwise would have waked, well and good. It is those who are awake who will get the blessing. If in the Lord's providence the time should come twenty-five years later then that would be our blessing as well. The increase of light and knowledge respecting chronology is a blessing. If it should wake us for a few minutes or hours earlier in the morning than we would otherwise have waked, well and good. It is those who are awake who get the blessing. If in the Lord's providence the time should come twenty-five years later then that would be our blessing as well.
13. The increase of light and knowledge respecting chronology and the time-prophecies should be expected to continue until the perfect day.
14. Bible Students should be of earnest expectation that the Lord will continue to reveal fresh unfoldings of our Father's plan.

A separation of the author's 1889 text and the publisher's 2008 additions shown by the use of a different font, as illustrated here:

Pastor Russell's original text is in this font (Garamond).

The publishers comments are in this font (Helvetica).

It is a great privilege to publish this book with supporting graphical illustrations. Our prayer is that the message of this book will bring perception and understanding to many who have yet to learn the glad tidings of the gospel message and to those looking for a deeper understanding of God's plans and purposes.

Copies of this book can be obtained through the publisher:

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# “The Time is at Hand”

## THE AUTHOR’S FOREWORD

*Written in 1889 by Pastor Russell*

THE FIRST EDITION of this Volume was given to the public in A.D. 1889. Since then, one edition after another has gone forth in various languages, until now more than one million and a half copies are in the hands of the people. These figures are astonishing when we consider how few people today have any faith in the Bible as a Divine Revelation, and how few of those who do have faith in the Bible have an appreciation of prophecy and of chronology—especially of Bible chronology and the Bible’s history of the world.

The author and the publishers have great cause for rejoicing in the evidence continually coming to hand that this Volume has proven very helpful to the people of God in every land in the study of the Bible—in collating the message of the Lord’s Word under various headings and classifications assistful to the student. Especially have we heard of many being blessed in their study of the manner of the Second Advent—in the Scriptural proof set forth in this Volume that our Lord will never again come to this earth as a man, having fulfilled completely His mission as a human being when He by the grace of God

tasted death for every man at Calvary. The texts brought to the attention of the reader, proving that now our Lord is the glorified One at the Father’s right hand, and is soon to become King of the world, have been assistful to many, as their letters testify.

This Volume makes no claim to infallibility, and no claim of any direct inspiration from God in the interpretation of His Word. On the contrary, it does claim that the Divine Revelation is the Bible. Its endeavor has been to collate the Bible evidences and to offer suggestions in respect to their significance.

Dealing with subjects so difficult that they are rarely touched by others, it is not to be considered strange if some of the suggestions made in this Volume have not been fulfilled with absolute accuracy to the very letter. But the author, the publishers, and the thousands of readers of this Volume are not ashamed of its presentations, and are still handing it forth to all who have an interest in Bible study—as most interesting and most helpful in an understanding of the Lord’s Word.



1. Time is a progressive measure between two or more events. It can be linear or non-linear. That is, events between can be equal or unequal time.
2. Time is connected with life. Wasted time is wasted life. Productive time adds meaning to life.
3. Time provides an overview of a complex totality.
4. Time measure changes in a sequence of events from beginning to end. It is a measurement of the past, present and future.
5. Time is a point when an event is scheduled to take place. Identifying the start and finish gives the point perspective.
6. Time is irreversible, transitional and successive.
7. Different types of time are: clock time; calendar time; historic time; expectation time; vision time; harvest time; ending time; progressive time; and opportunity time.
8. Time that connects two or more events in a prophetic and meaningful way can be called a system. God creates systems as well as individual events. Time helps define the system.

Figure P.1 – What is Time?

## The Beginning of the Millennial Age has started!

The Bible chronology herein presented shows that the six great thousand-year Days beginning with Adam are ended, and that the great Seventh Day, the thousand years of Christ's Reign, began in 1873. The events of these 43 years, which this Volume claims as the beginning of the Millennium, we still find fully corroborating Bible prophecies, as herein set forth. During these 43 years, nearly all the inventions of our day have been accomplished. The sewing machine, one of the first, began to reach its perfection 43 years ago. Since then, we have all kinds of farming machinery and tools, and workshop, store, factory and home conveniences, in abundance and cheap—through human invention. These are shortening the hours of labor, and doing away with the "sweat of face," which the Bible declares to be identified with the curse.

It is entirely safe to say that in these 43 years the world has increased its riches one thousand-fold. And when we remember that behind the

43 years lies a total of six thousand years of human endeavor, it seems almost a miracle that the world should accomplish one thousand times more in the past 43 years than in the six thousand years preceding. Surely this well attests the claim of this Volume that we have entered the great Seventh Day, and that what we are already experiencing as a race are only the foregleams of the much greater blessings still to come—when the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His beams, and scatter all the darkness, ignorance, and superstition of the world!

### The goal of this work

This Volume sets forth, what its author has been preaching for over forty years, that the "Times of the Gentiles" chronologically ended in the fall of A.D. 1914. The expression, "Times of the Gentiles," in Bible usage signifies the years, or period of time, in which the Gentile nations of the world were to be permitted to have control, following the taking away of the typical kingdom from natural Israel, and filling the hiatus between that event and the

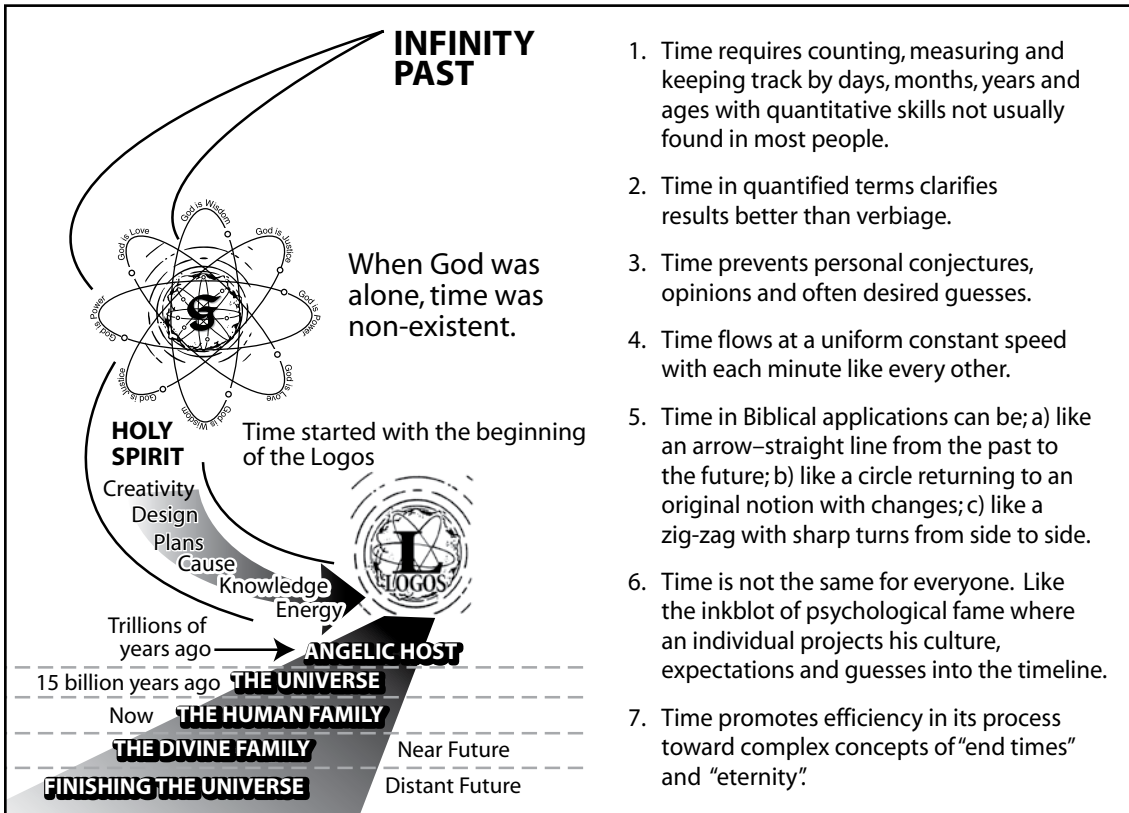


Figure P.2 – Reasons for Controversy in Time Thinking.

establishment of God's Kingdom in the hands of Messiah—"whose right it is." Ezekiel 21:27

We could not, of course, know in 1889, whether the date 1914, so clearly marked in the Bible as the end of the Gentile lease of power or permission to rule the world, would mean that they would be fully out of power at that time, or whether, their lease expiring, their eviction would begin. The latter we perceive to be the Lord's program; and promptly in August, 1914, the Gentile kingdoms referred to in the prophecy began the present great struggle, which, according to the Bible, will culminate in the complete overthrow of all human government, opening the way for the full establishment of the Kingdom of God's dear Son.

We are not able to see behind the veil; we are not able to know the things progressing under the direction of our glorious Lord and the members of His Church already glorified. Our thought is that somehow the Lord is taking a hand in the affairs of the world now as He did not do in times past. We do know that the great Time of Trouble, which has begun, very closely corresponds to the Divine declaration respecting the time and conditions of the establishment of Messiah's Kingdom. The Lord Himself informs us that, at the time He shall take to Himself His great power and reign, the nations will be mad and the Divine wrath will come. A little later on the time will come for the judging of the dead, and the giving of the reward to God's servants, small and great, leading on finally to the destruction of the incorrigible, who would exercise a corrupt influence upon the earth. Revelation 21:8

### **1914 was a significant sign in time-prophecy**

All over the world people knew of the expectations of Bible Students in respect to the year A.D. 1914; and when so stupendous a war as the present one broke loose, when the winds of strife began to blow with such fury and destruction, thousands remembered what they had heard and read respecting the end of the

Gentile Times. Thousands today have come to fully appreciate the times in which we are living. The influence is very helpful and inspiring. A realization that we are in the Day of the Lord, and that very soon all of His saints will be gathered to Him by the resurrection change, has a stimulating and encouraging influence upon Bible students, separating them from the world and its fears and ambitions and fixing their eyes upon the Crown of Life, which the Lord has in reservation for them that love Him most.

The author acknowledges that in this book he presents the thought that the Lord's saints might expect to be with Him in glory at the ending of the Gentile Times. This was a natural mistake to fall into, but the Lord overruled it for the blessing of His people. The thought that the Church would all be gathered to glory before October, 1914, certainly did have a very stimulating and sanctifying effect upon thousands, all of whom accordingly can praise the Lord—even for the mistake. Many, indeed, can express themselves as being thankful to the Lord that the culmination of the Church's hopes was not reached at the time we expected; and that we, as the Lord's people, have further opportunities of perfecting holiness and of being participators with our Master in the further presentation of His Message to His people.

Our mistake was evidently not in respect to the ending of the Times of the Gentiles; we drew a false conclusion, however, not authorized by the Word of the Lord. We saw in the Bible certain parallels between the Jewish Age and the Gospel Age. We should have noted that these parallels follow the nominal systems to destruction in both cases, and do not indicate the time of the glorification of the New Creation. This explanation will help the reader as he studies "THE TIME IS AT HAND." We have no doubt that the great blessings which have come to many of us in the past will continue to go through the Volume to thousands of others. So with it go the prayers of the author,

*Charles T. Russell—Brooklyn, N.Y. October 1, 1916*