



Eternity

Destiny

Understanding

Covenant

Application

Teach

Engage



Understanding the Times

1 Chronicles 12:32

1 Chronicles 12:32 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. NLT

Every age has its unique challenges, and those who understand the times tend to lead the way.

The men of Issachar stepped up knowing what needed to be done and how to do it.

The word understanding that we read in our text means to have insight or to act with prudence.

Of all the characteristics that are noted “understanding the times” appears to be the most significant of them all!

- If we don't understand our culture and its pressures, we will become a slave to it.

They Understood the word of the Lord,(vs. 23)

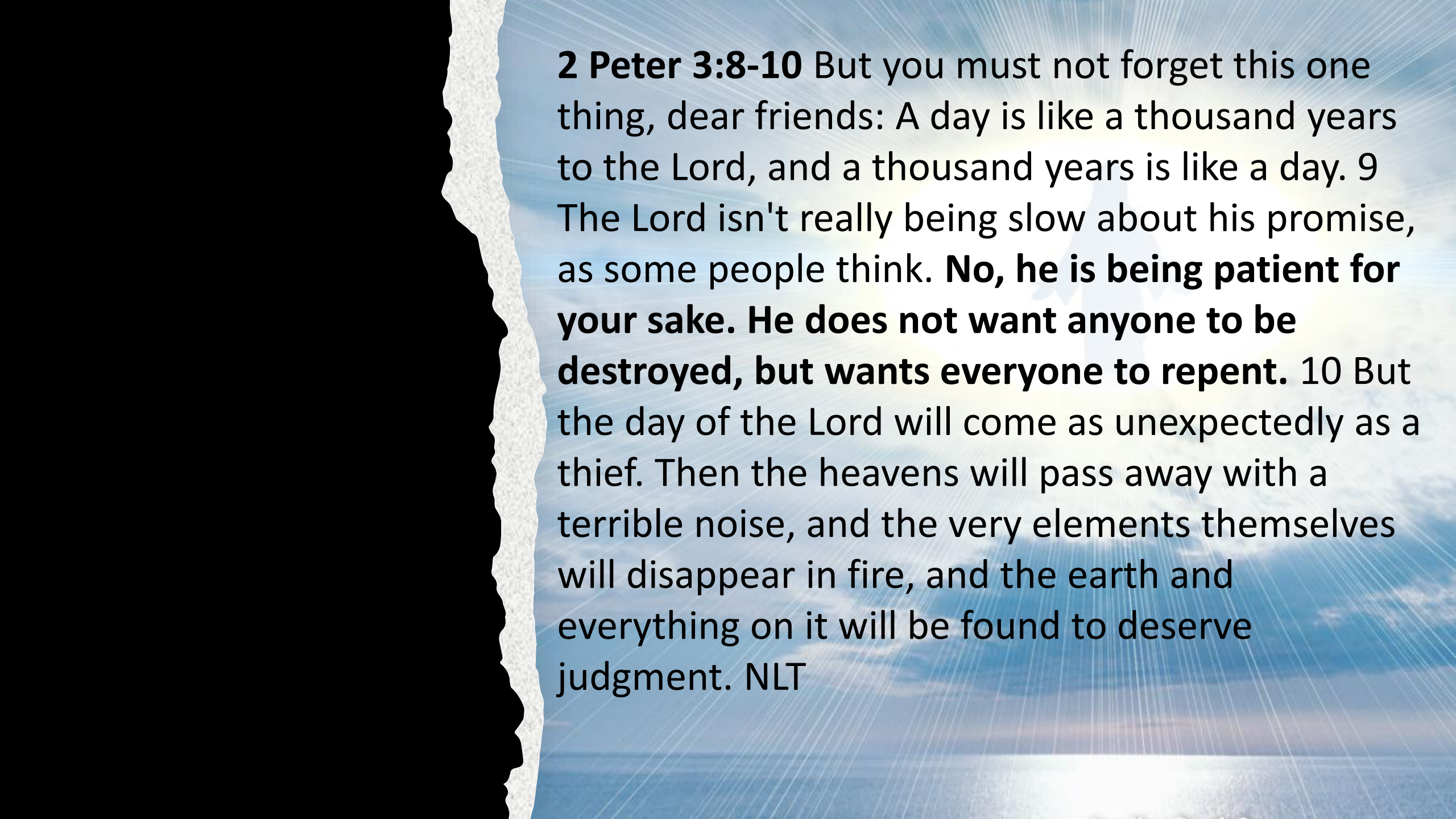
- They knew what God had promised. If we don't know the Bible, we can't focus our life on God's plan or His will.

The Understood What to Do (vs. 32)

- The men of Issachar not only understood what God was doing but they knew how to respond to what God was doing. They had a plan. We can understand the times and even understand what the Bible says but this means nothing unless we can then act upon that information. We have to be able to respond and apply the truth

UNDERSTOOD:

- The Prophetic (Tim and Deb)
- The Political (Jay)
- The Personal
 - **Matthew 25:1-13**
 - While in other parables, Jesus often emphasized the work of the faithful, here the emphasis is simply on being prepared and ready for when the dream of God's kingdom is completely fulfilled.
- The bridegroom is delayed. (The patience of God in His return is mercy for the world!)



2 Peter 3:8-10 But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. 9 The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. **No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.** 10 But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment. NLT

His delay caused them all to fall asleep.

The Wise are ready in spite of the delay!

The Foolish are not!

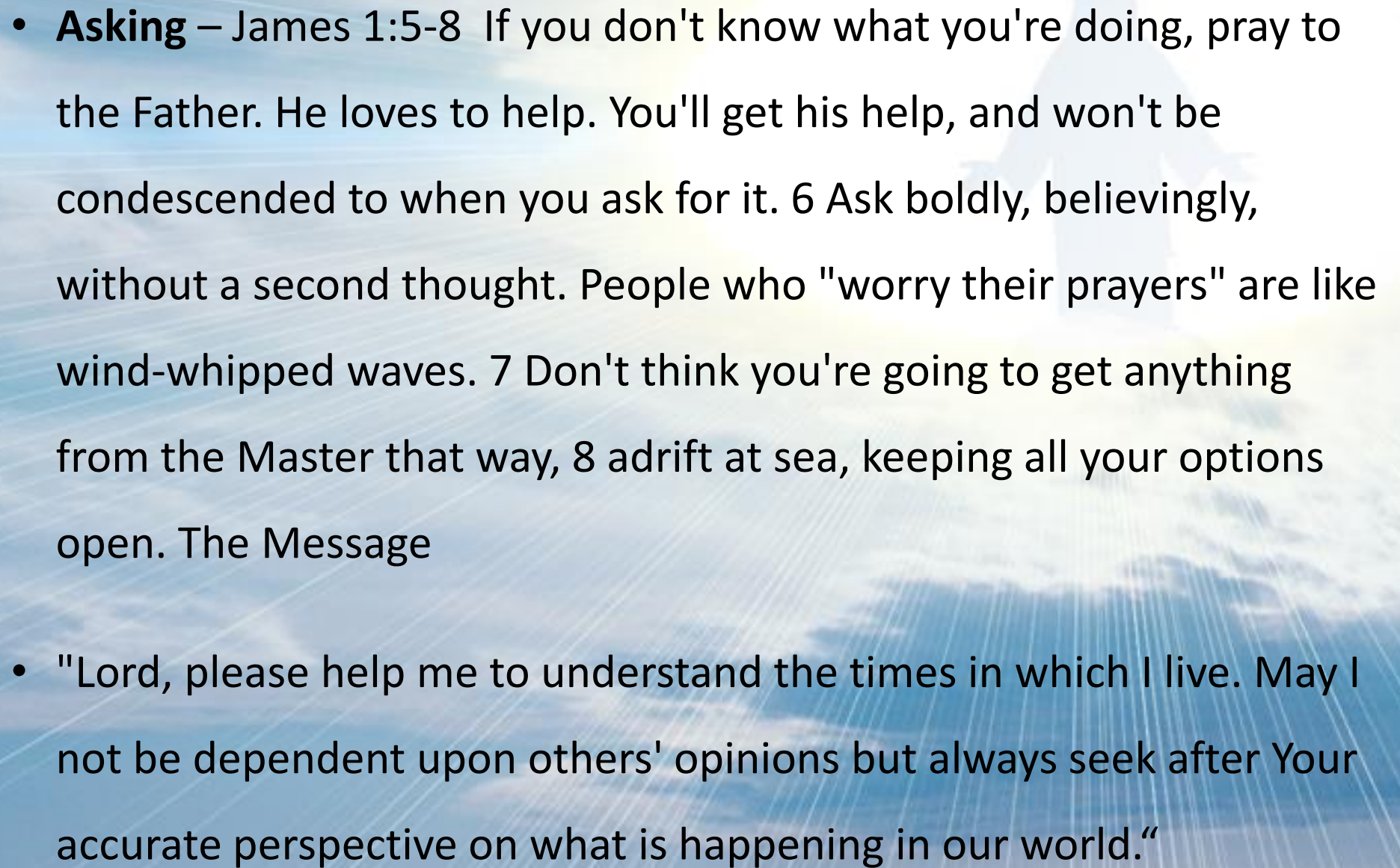
- When we stand before God, the oil of salvation cannot be shared with another person standing there.
- Everyone of the girls could have accessed the oil. It was available to all. He is not willing that ANY would perish....We have a responsibility to get oil in our lamps.
- Live in the light of His return that He could return at any moment. Live in a way that the bridegroom will welcome you into the party.
- When the door is shut, no evil will get in. This is good for all in the party, but awful for those outside the closed door.

- Watch and be ready. “I don’t know you,” is Jesus’ reply. You don’t have someone at a party that you don’t know. You don’t celebrate with those you don’t know. You wouldn’t enjoy being with someone at a party that you don’t know. An event has no significance when you don’t know the people. Everything in heaven is all about Jesus. That relationship with Jesus is the focal point, so if you don’t know Him and have a relationship with Him, it would be awkward to be there with Him. Matthew 25:13
- There’s PLENTY of oil to go around! Jesus died outside the city so we could live inside the city with Him.
- The t-ball experience

Readiness

1. True Understanding

- Biblically speaking, true understanding comes from the fear of God.
- **Romans 2:4-9** Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin? 5 But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself. For a day of anger is coming when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. 6 He will judge everyone according to what they have done. 7 He will give eternal life to those who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers. 8 But he will pour out his anger and wrath on those who live for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and instead live lives of wickedness. NLT

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- **Asking** – James 1:5-8 If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get his help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it. 6 Ask boldly, believingly, without a second thought. People who "worry their prayers" are like wind-whipped waves. 7 Don't think you're going to get anything from the Master that way, 8 adrift at sea, keeping all your options open. The Message
 - "Lord, please help me to understand the times in which I live. May I not be dependent upon others' opinions but always seek after Your accurate perspective on what is happening in our world."

2. Attitude

- It is right thinking. It is hopefulness. It is willingness. It is humility recognizing the God is in control and that I'm not.
- Keep Loving, Don't Give Up, Keep Persevering, Stay Focused,

3. Commitment

- This means being ready for whatever God has for us.
- It means being committed to God's mission while we wait.
- Don't get caught up in **END TIMES** theories!
- For over 2000 years people have wondered if the self indulgence and evil in our culture could be any worse.

BE READY

