

PASSION—Can you feel it?

## Part 4: Passion - It's My Time Now!

### Texts:

**Ecclesiastes 9:7 (The Message)** - "Seize life!"

**Hebrews 6:13-15 (NKJV)** - "For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, [14] saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." [15] And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise."

**Matthew 12:8 (NKJV)** - "For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

- A. Each year, most major news magazines publish a pictorial section recalling special people and events from the previous year.
1. Many of them also include predictions of what will happen in the next 10, 20 or more years.
  2. A few of their expectations have proven to be amazingly accurate, while others couldn't have been any farther from the truth.
  3. For example, experts predicted in 1967 that by the turn of the century, technology would have replaced so many American duties, the average work week would be reduced to only 22 hours per week for just 27 weeks per year.
    - a. A major problem to cope with would be deciding how to spend all that leisure time.
    - b. I'm not sure how it is for you, but in my life, that prediction certainly missed the mark!

- c.. In fact, we seem to be busier than ever! We're always in a hurry, walking fast, talking fast, and eating fast. If you want to test how 'saved' you are, let someone just ahead of you at a fast food restaurant place a wrong order that causes everyone to wait a few extra minutes and watch what happens!
  4. Men may try to guess what will happen next, but not God. He **knows** what is coming—and when!
- B. Here we are, well into 2014, and I've got a feeling that this year will be far different than the last. I'm really excited about this year!
1. I believe this excitement I'm feeling is a "God thing." Something in the spirit realm has broken over us!
  2. After watching others enjoy **their** time, I truly believe that somehow, it's **my** time now!
  3. Like the sick and afflicted who continually gathered at the pool of Bethesda, I've watched as Jesus seemed to pass by me and others who really needed His touch and approach just a single individual with this question: "Do you want to be made whole?" And I'm left sitting nearby—unnoticed. But this time, it's different!
  4. Sometimes, you miss an opportunity because no one wants to give you a chance.
    - a. Yesterday marked the fiftieth year anniversary of the Beatles' first appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show that took America by storm, forever changing our music style!
    - b. What is so amazing is that the world almost failed to know about the Beatles. When the Vice President of Decca Records auditioned the group, he turned them down, saying there was no future for guitar bands.

- c. How would you like for that terrible decision to appear on your resume? As the most profitable musical artists of all time, the Beatles have sold over 2 **billion** albums!
5. It's my time now—and I'm going to take advantage of it!

C. This year is also significant for other reasons.

1. Jewish people believe that at the beginning of the year, each of us passes before God as He declares what will happen to us that year.
2. They also believe that since the number of a year has great significance, it's important to know the meaning of particular numbers.

3. **Joke:** "Accounting"

The mafia wants to hire an accountant and is conducting interviews for each of the hopefuls. The first guy walks in and introduces himself.

"I'm here for the accounting position."

Boss: "What's 2+2?"

Accountant No. 1: "Four."

Boss: "Nope! You can leave."

Disappointed and a little confused, the accountant hesitantly leaves the office as another applicant arrives.

Accountant No. 2: "Hey, I'm here for the accounting position."

Boss: "What's 2+2?"

Accountant No. 2: "Four."

Boss: "Sorry, but that's wrong. I don't need you. You can leave."

Just as confused as the first applicant, the second man leaves, thinking that if the boss is that stupid, he doesn't want to work for him anyway.

On the way out, a third applicant enters.

Accountant No. 3: "Hi, I'm here for the accounting position."

Boss: "What's 2+2?"

Accountant No. 3: "Anything you want it to be."

Boss: "You're hired!"

4. The year 2014 is called a "double seven," since fourteen is "two times seven."
5. Even the digits of the year 2014, added to one another, equal seven ( $2+0+1+4= 7$ ).
6. The fact that the last two digits are "14" means that whatever seven may represent, 2014 is twice that amount!

D. Jewish theologians consider that after the number "one", which represents God, the number "seven" is the most spiritual of all.

1. In the Hebrew, the number seven is *shevah* or *shavagh*, from the root *savah*, meaning: to be full or satisfied, have enough of.
2. On the seventh day, God rested from the work of Creation; a day that was full and complete, good and perfect.
3. Nothing could be added to or taken away without marring that day—hence, the word *Shavath*—to cease, desist, rest; and *Shabbath*, *Sabbath*, or *day of rest*.

E. The significance of the number seven is seen in the numerous ways it is used in scripture and the prominence of what the number represents.

1. In God's creative works, seven colors are in the spectrum of the rainbow.
2. The musical scale has seven notes, with the eighth a repetition of the first.
3. In **Genesis 12:2-3 (KJV)**, God blessed Abraham with a seven-fold, or "SEVENED" blessing:
  - a. I will make of thee a great nation,
  - b. And I will bless thee,
  - c. And make your name great;
  - d. And thou shall be a blessing;
  - e. And I will bless them that bless you,
  - f. And curse him that curses you:

- g. And in you shall all families of the earth be blessed.
4. In **Exodus 6:6-8**, God "SEVENED" Israel by establishing a seven-fold covenant. Seven times in these verses, He uses the expression, "I will," thus establishing the covenant with spiritual perfection:
    - a. I will bring you out from Egypt.
    - b. I will rid you of their bondage.
    - c. I will redeem you.
    - d. I will take you unto Me for a people.
    - e. I will be to you a God.
    - f. I will bring you into the land.
    - g. I will give it to you.
  5. To anoint the High Priest, he was sprinkled with blood seven times.
  6. A cleansed leper was sprinkled with blood seven times.
  7. The blood of the red heifer was to be sprinkled seven times at the door of the tabernacle, signifying the entrance of a new dimension with God.
  8. On the Day of Atonement, the High Priest would sprinkle blood in seven places, beginning with the Most Holy Place and working outward, to signify how God reaches out to man:
    - a. On the mercy-seat (Leviticus 16:14)
    - b. Before the mercy-seat (Leviticus 16:14)
    - c. Before the veil (Leviticus 4:17)
    - d. On the horns of the golden altar (Exodus 30:10)
    - e. On the horns of the brazen altar (Leviticus 16:18)
    - f. Sprinkled round about on the altar (Leviticus 16:19)
    - g. Any remaining blood was poured at the foot of the brazen altar (Leviticus 4:18).
  9. Jesus' blood was shed for us from seven parts of His body, thus completing the atonement and redemption for our sins.
    - a. In Gethsemane, His sweat dripped with blood.
    - b. His beard was violently ripped from His face.

- c. The crown of thorns on His head.
- d. The stripes on His back.
- e. The nails driven in His feet.
- f. The nails driven in His hands.
- g. The spear thrust into His side.

F. Another meaning of the root *Shavagh* is: to swear, or make an oath; literally to "seven" oneself.

1. First occurring in Genesis 21:31, the scriptures says that Abimelech and Abraham "sware both of them." Abimelech, king of the Philistines and a type of the enemy, was concerned because Abraham was increasing while he decreased, so he wanted to make peace.
  - a. Abimelech's servants had stolen a well from Abraham—and Abraham wanted it back!
  - b. This year, I believe God is going to restore wells the enemy has stolen from us.
  - c. Based upon the "seven ewe lambs" mentioned in verses 28-30, Abraham's oath refers to the idea of completeness or fullness.
  - d. Abraham and Abimelech named this well "Beer-sheba," the well of the oath, or the "Well of Seven."
2. In Genesis 22:16, because God could swear by no greater than Himself, He swears or "sevens" that He would bless Abraham.

G. In the New Testament, Jesus calls Himself, "The Lord of the Sabbath" or "The Lord of Seven" (or Completeness).

1. No one seemed to realize who Jesus was. When the Pharisees rebuked Him for allowing His disciples to pluck corn on the Sabbath, He said, "I am the Lord of the Sabbath"--or the "seven!"
2. In the course of Jesus' ministry, He performed seven miracles on the Sabbath, or seventh day.

- a. These seven miracles were intended to establish His identity as "The Lord of the Sabbath!"
- b. The purpose of the Sabbath miracles was to forever establish that He is "The Lord of Completeness."

H. These significant miracles were meant to restore what had prevented man from being complete and blessed. All seven were performed by Christ on the Sabbath day:

1. Healing of a man with a withered hand (Matthew 12:9).
  - a. The man was unable to take hold of what God had given him.
2. Healing of a man with an unclean spirit (Mark 1:21).
  - a. The man had a wrong attitude.
3. Healing of Peter's mother-in-law (Mark 1:29).
  - a. She was healed of a fever.
4. Healing of a woman with a spirit of infirmity (Luke 13:11).
  - a. She was bent over and couldn't raise herself up.
5. Healing of a man with dropsy or a swelling, possibly caused by congestive heart failure (Luke 14:2).
  - a. Dropsy affects the breathing and prevents taking a deep breath. The word for breath is *pneuma*, which means "spirit," referring to the Holy Spirit.
6. Healing of an impotent man (John 5:8,9).
  - a. This man was stuck—in one place; he could not walk with God, take what he wanted, or go wherever he wished.
7. Healing of a man who was born blind (John 9:14).
  - a. He could not see or comprehend the things of God.

I. All these miracles were performed on the Sabbath—or the seventh. The year 2014 is a "double seven" year that occurs only once in a century.

1. By performing these miracles on the Sabbath, Jesus SEVENED Himself!

2. As believers, when we enter into the Sabbath or “rest of God,” we are SEVENED or completed in His fullness. Get it? God's rest is the missing element!
3. So, it's ***your*** time now!