

Knowing The Times: The Mission We Have

1. What is our goal?

- Winning the 'culture war'?
- Redeeming the culture?
- Restraining immorality?
- Saving the planet?
- Preserving the church?

2. What is the present context of the church?

- Israel v Exile
- Exodus, Wilderness, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Esther, Hebrews, 1 Peter, Revelation

3. What is the task of the church?

- Matthew 28v16-20
- 1 Peter 2v11-12 & 3v15
- 2 Timothy 4v1-5
- Parables of the Kingdom: Matthew 13
 - Sower
 - Weeds
 - Mustard Seed
 - Hidden Treasure
 - Net
- Parables of Salvation: Luke 15
 - Lost Sheep
 - Lost Coin
 - Lost Son
- Parables of the Coming King: Matthew 24-25
 - Thief in the Night
 - Faithful Steward
 - Ten Virgins
 - Bags of God (Talents)
 - Sheep and the Goats

4. Fulfilling Our Mission in Exile – Lessons from Daniel

- Engagement without compromise – Daniel 1
- Speak (gospel) truth to power – Daniel 2
- Refuse to worship false gods – Daniel 3
- Trust God’s sovereign purposes – Daniel 4
- Warn of coming judgment – Daniel 5
- Continue your personal devotion – Daniel 6
- Wait for the coming of the kingdom – Daniel 7-8
- Confess our sins and expect a long exile – Daniel 9
- Look ahead to the last day/resurrection – Daniel 10-12

5. What do we need?

- Confidence
- Compassion
- Courage
- Consistency
- Community

For further reading:

Rodney Stark, *The Rise of Christianity*

Alan Kreider, *The Patient Ferment of the Early Church*

Rod Dreher, *Live Not By Lies*

Kevin De Young & Greg Gilbert, *What is the Mission of the Church?*

Jonathan Leeman, *Political Church*