

Redeeming the Time

"Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time."
Colossians 4:5

In the New Testament, we catch a sense of urgency as well as the importance of the individual that we don't find in the Old Testament – differences resulting from Christ dying for our sins, combined with the need to evangelize the lost. As you know, in the Old Testament, God failed to give a promise of eternal life to the individual, and consequently the Old Testament saints did not see the need for Messiah's death. So too, no effort was made to evangelize the surrounding nations.

God revealed to Abraham, "Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years."¹ With an apparent disregard for human suffering and the utter waste of over ten generations living in slavery, God simply decides that this is how He will build a nation out of a clan. The Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob spent their lives doing nothing while God worked His will through them.

You may find yourself tempted to conclude that God would never insist on your life being spent in ways that seem to you wasteful. When Providence arrests your efforts to fulfill your goals and objectives, remember that He is the same God that seemingly "wasted" generations of His people in the Old Testament. Never allow your understanding of your importance to God and your need to "redeem the time" to cause you to despair when He acts in ways that seem to belie this truth.

¹Genesis 15:13