

"A CALL FOR MEN TO UNDERSTAND THE TIMES AND RESPOND BIBLICALLY"

1 CHRONICLES 12:32

(A FATHER'S DAY SERMON)

INTRO: It is hard to believe that we have come to another FATHER'S DAY, but the fact is true, THAT WE HAVE. On this FATHER'S DAY we **truly do want to HONOR ALL FATHERS...particularly those who know and love the Lord.** **HOW CAN WE HONOR OUR FATHERS?** 1) Through Obedience. 2) Through Respect. 3) Through Prayer, 4) Through Physical Care. 5) Through Spiritual Encouragement. 6) Through Financial Support. **BUT IN TODAY'S MESSAGE,** I believe the Lord has led us to focus on the fact that **due to the circumstances of the times in which we live, WE NEED MEN OF A UNIQUE QUALITY AND CHARACTER who Understand the Times, Know what to do in these Times, and then will Lead others properly in these Times.** In doing so, LET'S GO BACK ABOUT 3000 YEARS to when DAVID began to reign over Israel and learn from the **SONS OF ISSACHAR** about the **QUALITY AND CHARACTER MEN SHOULD DEVELOP for SUCH A TIME AS THIS!**

THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

- 1) The date was around 1058 BC and David had recently been anointed as King over all Israel.
- 2) David was gathering an army to help him to secure his reign and King. In the scriptural context, a contingency of men from EACH ONE of the 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL gathered to support David in his reign. **(Note some of the Men who were a part of David's Army – 1 Chronicles 11:10-25).**
- 3) Among the group of MEN were 200 SONS OF ISSACHAR. ISSACHAR was the 9th SON OF JACOB and was one of the 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL.
- 4) As a TRIBE, Genesis 49:14,15 and 1 Chronicles 7:1-5 records that they were **STRONG AND VALIANT**
- 5) In addition to being **STRONG AND VALIANT**, the SONS OF ISSACHAR had THREE GREAT QUALITIES. 1) They Understood the Times. 2) They Knew what Israel ought to do. 3) They were Leaders. **Let's study these THREE GREAT QUALITIES and then as MEN, DETERMINE TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN THESE QUALITIES PERSONALLY.**

I. ISSACHAR'S SONS WERE MEN OF UNDERSTANDING – Vs. 32a

"MEN THAT HAD UNDERSTANDING OF THE TIMES"

A. Consider the Condition of Their Times

NOTE: Israel was facing some challenging times and the SONS OF ISSACHAR were not OBLIVIOUS to the times but understood what was going on around them.

1. David had just become King.
2. There were still some who were loyal to King Saul and there was some division between David's followers and Saul's followers.
3. Judah and Israel had just joined together and there were details to work out.
4. Israel had the Philistines to contend with as their enemies.

B. Consider the Condition of Our Times

NOTE: Men who are used of God WILL determine to UNDERSTAND THE TIMES so as to confront them biblically. (Dave Kistler)

1. We are living in times like NEVER BEFORE seen in History
 - a. Look at the World in General
 - 1) Russia and China
 - 2) China and Taiwan
 - b. Look at the United States
 - 1) A Government in Turmoil

- 2) A Rejection of God
- c. Look at the Church
 - 1) Lack of Sound Doctrine
 - 2) Lack of Biblical World View
- d. Look at the Family
 - 1) The Re-Defining of Marriage
 - 2) The Emphasis on the Material rather than the Spiritual
- 2. We Need Men who Understand WHAT IS GOING ON in our Time
 - a. God Expects Men to Understand the Times – Ephesians 5:15
 - b. God Accepts **NO EXCUSE** for Men being Ignorant of the Times

NOTE: GOD ALWAYS HAS HIS MEN IN EVERY AGE TO UNDERSTAND THE TIMES. 3000 YEARS AGO, IT WAS THE SONS OF ISSACHAR. TODAY IS IT YOU, SIR?

II. ISSACHAR'S SONS WERE MEN OF WISDOM – Vs. 32b

“THEY KNEW WHAT ISRAEL OUGHT TO DO.”

A. Consider the Condition of Their Times

-The Sons of Issachar knew what Israel faced and had the WISDOM to face the times with them. **THEY HAD SPIRITUAL “SAGACITY.”** (*Pulpit Commentary*)

B. Consider the Condition of Our Times

-God’s Desire is that His Men utilize His Wisdom in dealing with the condition of the times. Ephesians 5:16,17; James 1:5

NOTE: EVERY MAN OF GOD CAN BE USED OF GOD BY THE WISDOM OF GOD!

III. ISSACHAR'S SONS WERE MEN OF LEADERSHIP – Vs. 32c

“THEIR BRETHERN WERE AT THEIR COMMAND”

A. Consider the Condition of Their Times

-Because of their understanding and wisdom, others followed.

B. Consider the Condition of Our Times

-Strong biblical leadership is needed in every level of society. **ONLY MEN OF GOD WITH A BIBLICAL WORLD VIEW CAN PROVIDE THE LEADERSHIP THAT IS NEEDED TODAY.** (*George Barna*)

NOTE: OTHERS WILL FOLLOW MEN WHO ARE WILLING TO LEAD!

LESSON/APPLICATION
WILL YOU BE A SON OF ISSACHAR?