



# BIG BEN TIME

by Dr. David Crandall

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**Dr. David R. Crandall**

Everyone who comes to London to attend the Olympics will ultimately visit the Clock Tower of the Palace of Westminster, commonly known as Big Ben. This famous tower stands as a powerful British icon and is universally recognized as a symbol of the United Kingdom.

Though the tower is named for the 13.5-ton bell, Big Ben, the four-faced clock is the tower's internationally known image.

Each year on New Year's Eve, the clock

becomes the centre of Great Britain's attention—from the Palace to the countryside—as the nation's television stations carry the annual countdown while the clock's famous hands tick to midnight. The echoing bells announce yet another year and the beginning time for the New Year's celebration.

This beautiful timepiece became fully operational on September 7, 1859, and is known for its amazing history in keeping time accurately.

As Londoners welcome the world, Big Ben will tick faithfully throughout the 17 days (388 hours) of the 30th Olympiad.

Sophisticated and technologically impressive time systems will join Big Ben as time will be measured to the millisecond at each Olympic event.

Our hope is that all athletes and spectators will enjoy their Olympic time and appreciate the honour of being part of these Olympic Games.



## The importance of time

The English poet Robert H. Smith penned this well-known poem:

### *The Clock of Life*

*The clock of life is wound but once,  
And no man has the power  
To tell just when the hands will stop  
At late or early hour.*

*To lose one's wealth is sad indeed,  
To lose one's health is more,  
To lose one's soul is such a loss  
That no man can restore.*

*The present only is our own,  
So Live, Love, toil with a will—  
Place no faith in "Tomorrow" –  
For the clock may then be still.*

The famous American statesman, Benjamin Franklin, once stated: "Dost thou love

life? Then do not squander time, for that's the stuff life is made of."

Time is indeed a fragment of eternity given to man by God as a solemn stewardship.

### The average person spends:

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Sleeping .....20 years

Eating .....6 years

Playing .....7 years

Dressing .....5 years

Waiting for someone .....3 years

On a mobile phone .....2 years

Working .....20 years

## **The Bible's thoughts about time**

The Bible says we should be “. . . redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:16).

We all would agree that we live in time, and that time is defined as daytime and nighttime. Our 24-hour day was first mentioned in the Bible during the six days of creation:

*“Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years” (Genesis 1:14).*

The Creator God of the Bible is the author of time, and He advises us to redeem it. The clock which measures time, as the poem states, will someday be still.

## What then?

Adam and Eve, the first man and woman created by God, were created in time and subject to time. Their time was measured by days and weeks, just like our time today, but they were created to never die. When they disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, however, a new time was introduced to humanity—the time to die. Because of their sin, death entered the world, and their time in this life became limited to years instead of eternity.

As a result, every person who followed them would live with a “time sentence,” which includes eternal death and permanent separation from the God of heaven because of our sin against God. We sin when we fail to meet God’s standards.





When we lie, steal, dishonour others, worship false gods, or don't give reverence to God, we deserve our Creator's punishment. The book of Romans explains that a holy God must punish our disobedience:

*"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).*

*"For the wages of sin is death . . ."*  
*(Romans 6:23).*

On Christmas Day, Christians celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. He came into this world to save us from our sins. Thirty-three years after His arrival on earth, He was crucified on a Roman cross and received the punishment that we deserve even though He had never sinned.

*"For He made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us . . ." (2 Corinthians 5:21).*

*“For God so loved the world [mankind] that he gave [into time] His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life [time]” (John 3:16).*

In His Resurrection from the grave, Jesus became the great victor over death and now offers Himself as the Saviour of the world. Jesus Christ tells us we must repent of our sin and place our trust in Him.



## **What time is it?**

It is time for you to be saved from the punishment for sin. It is time for you to repent of your sin. It is time for you to have all your sins washed away. It is time for you to trust in Christ and have a new life in Him. It is time for you to settle the question, "Where will I spend eternity?"

*"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).*

## **What must I do?**

- Admit that you are a sinner (Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8).
- Repent of your sin (Acts 17:30).
- Receive Jesus Christ as Lord of your Life (John 1:12).
- Realize that eternal life is a gift from God (Roman 6:23).

- Receive God's gift by faith—by taking God at His Word (Roman 10:8–11).
- Read and believe what the Bible says:  
*“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Ephesians 2:8–9).*

You can express your desire to be saved to God through prayer. While there is no one prayer that should be prayed, you may want to say something like this:

*“Dear God, thank you for sending Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to pay for my sins on the Cross. Thank you that He died for me. I acknowledge that I am a sinner and that I cannot save myself. Please forgive me all my sins. I receive your gift of salvation by faith. Thank you for loving me enough to save me. In Jesus' name, Amen.”*

## **It is the best of time**

When a person puts his or her faith in Christ and senses the forgiveness of sin, it is indeed the best of times. Even though life will still have its challenges, there is hope in knowing that God will guide you as you trust in Him. Everlasting joy is God's promise for those who have a relationship with their Creator through Jesus Christ.

How can anyone be certain that they have been forgiven?

*"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).*

*"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13).*

## **Eternity**

The longest period of time is known as eternity. Please know that every person will spend eternity somewhere. The Bible speaks of an eternal hell and an eternal heaven; where will you spend eternity?

Big Ben is ticking away its measurement of time; each tick brings us closer to our meeting with our Creator.

# The Seven Times of History



In the beginning—in six, 24-hour days—God made a perfect **creation**.



The first man, Adam, disobeyed the Creator. His sin brought death and **corruption** into the creation.



Adam's race became so wicked that God judged the world with a great **catastrophe**—a global flood—saving only those on the Ark built by Noah.



When Noah's descendants disobeyed God's command to fill the earth, God brought **confusion** on their language, forcing them to spread over the earth.



The Creator became a man, Jesus **Christ**, who obeyed God in everything, unlike the first man, Adam.



Jesus, the Messiah, died on the **Cross** to pay the penalty for mankind's sin against God. He rose from the dead, providing life for all who trust in Him.



One day, at the **consummation**, the Creator will remake His creation. He will cast out death and the disobedient, create a new heaven and new earth, and dwell eternally with those who trust in Him.





# CREATION MUSEUM

Prepare to believe.

The Creation Museum presents a "walk through history."

Designed by a former Universal Studios exhibit director, this state-of-the-art 70,000-square-foot museum brings the pages of the Bible to life while providing a fully engaging, sensory experience for guests.

Murals and realistic scenery, computer-generated visual effects, dozens of exotic animals, life-sized people and dinosaur animatronics, and a special-effects theater complete with misty sea breezes and rumbling seats are just some of the impressive exhibits that everyone in your family will enjoy.

For ticket and exhibit information, please visit us at [creationmuseum.org](http://creationmuseum.org).

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- I have received Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour.
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