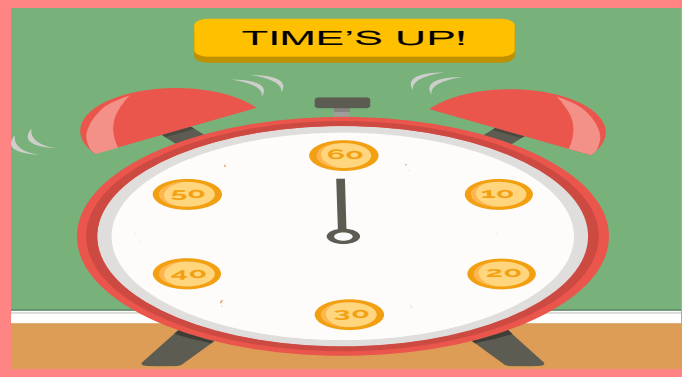
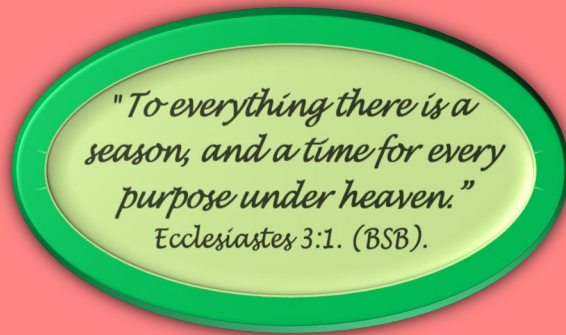


OASIS: December 25 -31, 2025: The Countdown



So, We Are Only Six (6) Days To The End Of The Year Of The Lord, 2025? Does it not seem like it was only a few days ago that we said welcome and Happy New year to 2025? Time really flies, as they say! And talking about Time, it is that very important element of life but which is very elusive. **It Is In The Past, It Is Now, And It Is In The Future. And Sometimes, the question is, what Time are we talking about, and what exactly is Time? It is not the focus of this meditation, but I will leave you with the thought that Time is Mysterious, An Enigma, And Unknown, But A Great Determinant Of What We Do, Or Not Do, On This Side Of Eternity. And human beings at the centre of Time, today are, and tomorrow are no more.** So, my dear reader, if you had stopped living this year of the Lord, 2025, can you think of some key things you wished you had done, and things you did that you should not have done? I think such will be one of the best ways to review this year before it ends, as we trust God to give us the opportunity of another year - **a new year coming, called 2026.** Your reflection is a personal thing, (we will be glad if you share with us), but I suggest that you do it, learn the lessons, and go into the New Year a more prepared person.

The fact that Time comes and goes is one of the greatest teachers of life, which in my view, many of us do not allow to teach us. So, we make the same mistakes Time after Time. But we must be reminded that Time is not at our disposal, we are the mercy of Time, and its message is that what you need to do, you do it NOW. Moses prayed that the Lord should teach us to number our days so that we may use wisdom rightly in living our lives.¹ That is one of the greatest prayers anyone who believes in God, and in accountability should pray, and listen for the reply that God will give to that person. Our passage for this last week of the year reminds us that everything under heaven has a specific Time assigned to it.² To miss that Time is to waste it, as it cannot be recovered. Talking of making up for Time, is really using the Time that is assigned for something else. I remember the Entebbe Raid, also known as Operation Entebbe or Operation Thunderbolt (1976), when suddenly the Israelis struck to release their nationals from a hostage situation. The Ugandan security was taken by surprise, despite their preparation, because they expected that something like could happen, but the exact time they did not know. We got something like that told us many years ago by our Master and Lord, who we celebrate at this Time of the year – Christ and Christmas. **He said that in a twinkle of the eye, when no one expects it, it will happen, He will send His angel to sound the trumpet, and He will appear in the cloud and take His own that are ready for Him away.**³ That is a specific event with no known date. **There is another one more sudden, which we also do not know – the cold arms of death that steals into lives unexpectedly.** I have said goodbye, to a number of people, including my own dearly beloved older sister this year, and unexpectedly. How are we preparing? Every day is an opportunity to improve on our preparation. Those who choose not to believe in life after life, where accountability would be required are merely deceiving themselves, and others who believe in them. Verse 15 of our text for this week reminds us that God will bring even the things of the past to account.⁴

My dear reader, the same warning is still subsisting. He may come for me or you before these six days are over. Will you be ready for Him. Will there be things that you wished that you did, or that you wished you did not do? One of the Minor Prophets of the Old Testament, **Amos, also warned or should I say, encouraged the people of his Time to “Prepare to meet their God.”**⁵ **He was warning them about accountability, and that their God is going to judge them, and therefore they should prepare to meet Him.** I am often concerned about this Time of the year, because it is to me, a double-edged sword. People “jubilate” and celebrate, buy and sell, and even get into indebtedness, and sin, but know so little or nothing about the essence of this Time. Most businesses make their profit this Time of the year, and if they do not, especially those in the retail business, they doubt if they can make any profit for the year that is coming to an end. But how many people take the Time to think about Jesus Christ, the essence of this Time? The message that came to the world, thousands of years ago is, **“Do not**

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be afraid! For I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today in the City of David a Saviour has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord! ... and suddenly there appeared with the angel a great multitude of heavenly host, praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favour rests!"⁶ It was such a great news that even the heavenly host joined the angel and the shepherds in celebration. So, celebration in this Season is to be expected. **The issue however is, do we celebrate as it was done that first night when this great News was delivered?** The shepherds could not contain the news. They abandoned their flocks and went to investigate the information further, and when they confirmed it, they worshiped the New Born King, and went about spreading the News to All.⁸ That first celebration focussed on, and celebrated Jesus Christ, the reason for the celebration. **But can such be said of our celebration today, including those done in the places called Church?** For those who go to Church, the story would seem to have become stale, because as human beings, we are always looking for the new and spectacular. And for the world, they do not even know, or care to know about the story; what is important to them is the buying and selling, and the celebration, which often includes committing sin!

But as one of our readers, Oasis Ministry would like to encourage you to do something different this Season. Reflect on the opportunity to have the privilege to live up to this Season, and then reflect on the reason for this Season. What one thing can you or would you do because of the reason for this Season, Jesus Christ? A simple 'Jesus Loves you' or 'Jesus came for you so that you can have peace with God', said to a friend or someone you know who is not yet a partaker of the peace with God that Jesus has brought, can make the difference in a life. Or inviting a few people – maybe the homeless and other needy people to your home or to an eatery, and while eating, introduce Jesus and the Peace, Reconciliation, Justification, and Eternal Life He has brought to them might make a great difference! How would you spend this day and Season differently for the glory of God, and the Lord Jesus Christ? **The first celebration focussed on giving praise and glory to God. Is that what you are doing or plan to do? If God is going to judge you based on how you celebrate this day and Season, will you be found guilty or not guilty.⁹ So, we encourage you to truly celebrate, and be grateful to God for His Faithfulness, Mercy, Love, and Grace, from the bottom of your heart. Let Heaven See And Hear Your Gratitude. This is the charge of Oasis to you, as you celebrate this Season, and as the Year of the Lord 2025, comes to an end. Make this Season count for the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a Countdown to another year; it maybe a countdown for your transition into eternity. Make it count Purposefully; make it count Positively; make it count Gloriously, all for the Almighty God, whose love touches down to us at this Time, and Jesus Christ, whose obedience, Humility, and Love, brings you Peace with God, Reconciliation, Justification, and Eternal Life.**

From All Of Us At Oasis, Have A Very Merry Christmas And A Prayer For A God Centred And Focussed 2026.

Further & Daily Readings: Eccl.3:1-15; Luke 2:8-20. 1. Psalm 90:12; 2. Eccl.3:1-8; 3. Matt.24:30-31, 1Cor.15:51-52; 4. Eccl.3:15; 5. Amos 4:12; 6. Luke 2:10-11,13-14; 7. Luke 2:8-9; 8. Luke 2:15-20; 9. 2Cor.5:9-11.

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