## [This is the best of times, and the worst of times.](https://notapastor.tumblr.com/post/152355989737/this-is-the-best-of-times-and-the-worst-of-times)

As mentioned in this [DesiringGod article](https://href.li/?http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/this-is-the-best-of-times-and-the-worst-of-times), The Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens in 1859 begins,

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way — in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.

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Growing up I had a feeling that Jesus Christ would return during my own lifetime.

I doubt such thoughts are uncommon as we often feel self-important and experience history uniquely. In reality, I have no idea whether Christ will return during my lifetime, but I can observe and make note of many developing trends which make this current age potentially incredibly ripe for Christianity.

## **1) We live in an extremely ripe time philosophically / culturally.**

The classical approach to understanding shifts in philosophical understanding is by breaking down time periods into **premodernism**, **modernism**, and **postmodernism**.

Without diving too deeply, essentially in premodernism the authority of knowledge was direct revelation. One would observe the world and conclude that the only plausible explanation for creation and morals was a higher power – there was a single truth and it was ***absurd to disbelieve***in a higher power (intellectually, not morally).

In modernism the authority shifted slightly to trust man’s senses, putting more emphasis on reasons, and for the first time in history it became intellectually ***possible and acceptable to reject theism***. For the first time, man had the plausibility of multiple worldviews. And so he chose.

Here we are in a postmodern society and no one claims any truth. No one has authority over an individual except for the individual themselves. There is no objective truth, yet everyone’s subjective truth is correct for themselves. It is ***absurd to believe*** in a higher power (intellectually, not morally).

At one time the logical conclusion to an incredible universe and self-aware mankind is God, yet in these final days the logical conclusion to a vast universe and self-aware mankind is that there is no God.

At the time which Charles Dickens wrote *The Tale of Two Cities*. Nietzsche was 15. Nietzsche, understanding Christianity and observing the cultural transition, would later aptly write in *The Parable Of The Madman*,

What were we doing when we unchained this earth from its sun?

God is certainly dead, culturally.

## **2) We live in an abundantly ripe time economically.**

We are kings. Whether you recognize it or not, we are the 1% of the world, living as kings of old.

It astounds me that humanity has traveled to the Moon and has set sights on having affordable travels to Mars by 2020. It astounds me that I can travel anywhere on Earth on a whim. Many people, if they desired, could even move and make a living/retire anywhere in the world.

**I feel much like a king.** Certainly, not socially, with regard to respect to notoriety, but in terms of leisure, entertainment, and luxury, I do.

I read text like Matthew 7:21-23, Matthew 19:16-22, and Matthew 25:14-30, and I tremble. Truly, it is *incredibly difficult* for any American to be a Christian among all this idolatry and self-sufficiency. It has become so clear to me why

* Lot was incredibly foolish in judging by appearances
* God commands Israel to destroy all pagan remnants before inhabiting a land
* James and John faithfully offer to destroy the Samaritan Village with fire

We are the Laodicean church who boldly proclaim steadfast love and praise with our lips but our hearts are so far away from the living God. How often do we read, do we pray, do we think – truly, how much do we care about God? A faithful man, who can find?

I was born in America and grew up in a theologically sound church. God has bestowed upon me incredible insight, skills, and friendships. Further, I am a twenty-first century gentile whom the living God has graciously drawn to Himself. Truly, I am a man who has been given forty talents.

A man who foolishly justifies himself by comparing the ten talents he has profited, with another’s five profit – yet to my shame they began the race with only one talent!

May we live extravagantly generous lives to the glory of the living God.

## **3) We live in an extremely ripe time technologically.**

*“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law”*

Many scholars argue that it was the right time because

* The Roman rule created great anticipation in the Jews for their Messiah’s coming.
* Rome was unified in government, facilitating peaceful travel and accessible roads.
* Greek was the trade language of choice, and commonplace.

There are many things about that time period that shows the world was ripe for the prophecies concerning the coming Messiah. Observe how the modern world is very much more connected and more ripe for the gospel and second coming of Christ.

Wycliffe’s vision is Revelation 7, where people of all types, cultures, languages come together and worship the LORD – praising the worthy Christ to whom salvation belongs.

How can technology be used to facilitate multi-lingual congregations? How can technology accelerate and transform Bible translation?

## **Conclusion :**

Maranatha! For in this tent we groan, eagerly awaiting for adoption as sons.

The LORD knows our frame and leads us to seek his kingdom and righteousness. We desire to depart, yet the LORD’s thoughts are not our thoughts, and his ways are higher than our ways.

We have come a long way since Christ walked on the Earth, but take heart, for it is not unusual for time to pass. For Abraham was as much in the past for Jesus and the Jews in the gospels, as Jesus is for us in the modern day twenty-first century.

Christ has ascended to make intercession for his people before the Most Holy Judge. May we not commit idolatry as Israel did when Moses ascended to speak with the LORD on behalf of his people. Further, **may we be counted worthy and honor our High Priest**, clothing ourselves in fine linen of faithful righteousness as his Church.

Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.  
  
Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?  
Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.  
  
All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.   
  
But the one who endures to the end will be saved.