

Biblical Words for Time

The study of "time" by means of the Bible pages is most often confined to the search for significant differences or diverse interpretations between two Greek nouns: καιρός and χρόνος. Lexicographers and exegetes, who contend with these terms, share the conclusions that: **καιρός is interpreted by them as "a point in time," "definite time," "a moment (pivotal)," "the period marked by an important event/crisis" whereas χρόνος is understood as "indefinite time during which an event occurs," "period," measurable "time lapse," "duration."** These terms, being somewhat ephemeral, however evade lexical boundaries imposed on them, which is why they require to be considered within a context on a case-by-case basis. Something, that may be claimed about them with certainty, refers to their numerical quantity – καιρός is repeated 570 times in the Holy Scripture, χρόνος – "only" 194 times.

ANNA RAMBIERT-KWAŚNIEWSKA. *Paul's "Fullness of Time" (Gal 4:4) and "Fullness of Times" (Eph 1:10).* VERBUM VITAE • 38/1 (2020) 199–218

καιρός	χρόνος
Kairos	Chronos
477 times in the LXX: Strong's 2540	194 times in LXX: Strong's 5550
Point-based and specific meaning	Linear, continual, unspecified
Appropriate time, right time, moment, that specific moment, time of disputation	Extensive, imprecise, 'from...until,' Certain time, brief time, time of dominance, longer time, over time, upon the lapse of time
Mark 1:15: And saying, The time is fulfilled , and the kingdom of God is at hand...	Mark 2:19: And Jesus said to them, ' While the bridegroom is with them, the attendants of the bridegroom cannot fast, can they? So long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.'
Mark 10:30: But he shall receive a hundredfold now in this time , houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.	Mark 9:21: And He asked his father, 'How long has this been happening to him? And he said, 'From childhood.'
Mark 11:13: And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find anything thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet.	
Mark 12:2: And at the season he sent to the husbandmen a servant, that he might receive from the husbandmen of the fruit of the vineyard.	
Mark 13:33: Take heed, watch and pray: for you know not when the time is.	© 01/10/21 Martha L. Rogers