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Times and Seasons



.... I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. Jude 1:3 NIV

Reviewed by: Dr. Lambert Duncan

Times and Seasons

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV) *“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: ...”*

Malachi 3:6 (NIV) *“I the Lord do not change.”*

Hebrews 13:8 (NIV) *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”*

A couple of years ago, my wife and I went on a cruise to Alaska. Much to our surprise, the temperature was around 50° F when we arrived. Prior to our cruise, we always thought of Alaska as a cold place all year long. We expected to see igloos and dog sleds coupled with cold weather. However, in order for us to dress appropriately, my wife did her usual research and discovered the fact that Alaska has times and seasons for warm weather and cold weather. Therefore, we wouldn't need to dress for winter in Alaska since we were going there in the summer time.

Being born and raised in New York, the seasons I dressed according to were spring, summer, fall and winter. Each of these four seasons came around the same time each year and each had its own unique characteristics. For example: The summer months are characterized by high temperatures ranging from 80° F to 100° F plus. The winter months could range from 40° F to 0° F and be accompanied by snow. Each season starts a certain time of year that man acknowledges but is set by God. Spring starts March 21st, summer starts June 21st, fall starts September 22nd and winter starts December 21st. Regardless to the start date of these seasons, man has no control over them; they are set in motion by God. In all of mankind's advancements, we have never been able to control the seasons nor the time for their beginning or end and we never will, God alone is in charge.

Some seasons are eagerly anticipated by some while to others the same season is dreaded. For example: The ski buff can hardly wait till the cold season begins so they can go skiing. While to others (myself included) the cold season or winter brings snow and frigid temperatures that they don't like. Some love the summer months, they can't wait to go to the beach or to a swimming pool to swim, while others dread the heat of summer. While on the subject of times and seasons, we find in Ecclesiastes 3:1, that Solomon in his wisdom touches on two things most of us overlook when faced with various situations or seasons in our lives. Solomon says, *“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.”*

Much like the times and seasons we see in nature, Solomon in his wisdom, is in essence saying our lives too have times and seasons for things to transpire, some things we like while others we

dread. Solomon says in Ecclesiastes chapter 3 the following:

- 1) There is a time to be **born** and a time to **die**
- 2) There is a time to **plant** and a time to **uproot**
- 3) There is a time to **kill** and a time to **heal**
- 4) There is a time to **tear down** and a time to **build**
- 5) There is a time to **weep** and a time to **laugh**
- 6) There is a time to **mourn** and a time to **dance**
- 7) There is a time to **scatter stones** and a time to **gather stones**
- 8) There is a time to **embrace** and a time to **refrain**
- 9) There is a time to **search** and a time to **give up looking**
- 10) There is a time to **keep** and a time to **throw away**
- 11) There is a time to **tear** and a time to **mend**
- 12) There is a time to **be silent** and time to **speak**
- 13) There is a time to **love** and a time to **hate**
- 14) There is a time for **war** and a time for **peace**

Notice, each of the examples Solomon gives are opposites. Solomon's teaching goes against the common message of our day that says Christians won't have difficult times. The truth is, the saints of God have seasons of good that they welcome and seasons of not so good that they dread. In fact, some of you reading this may be in a season of difficulty right now. However, like the seasons of nature, spring, summer, winter and fall last only for a while, your season of difficulty will last just for a while.

Contrary to what many believe and teach, the times and seasons we encounter in life cannot be changed by anyone but God. The same way the sovereign God we serve controls the seasons in nature, He controls the times and seasons in our lives. Daniel 4:35 (NIV) says, "*All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: 'What have you done?'*"

There are two (2) points clearly made in this passage:

- 1) God does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. God does not need our permission or approval.
- 2) No one can hold back God's hand, what he decides to do can't be stopped by us, God alone decides what to stop or what to allow to continue.

Some folks reading this may be in a season in their lives that they dread. Others may be in a season of prosperity that they pray never changes. To those going through that dreadful or

difficult season, I'd like to leave them with this:

- 1) Like the seasons in nature change at certain times, so too will your season of difficulty, hold on till your change in season comes, don't give up!!!
- 2) Keep in mind that God is in control. No matter how chaotic or difficult things may be right now, God is still God and He knows what He's doing.
- 3) You have a great promise from Jesus himself. In Matthew chapter twenty eight, verse twenty (NIV), Jesus said, "... *and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*" So remember, you're never alone, be encouraged by this!!!

To those in their season of prosperity, remember those amongst you that are going through, be a blessing to them, encourage them, pray for them and most of all, tell them you love them and are there for them. Remember, you too will be in their shoes one day.

Finally, although seasons and people change, God never changes (Malachi 3:6). He's faithful and keeps His word. In addition, remember that it was through seasons of difficulty that David learned the words to the 23rd Psalm, "*The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want...*" No season of difficulty, no learning to trust God.

God Bless,
Pastor D. M. Duncan

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