

Already Blessed

EVERYTHING HAS A SEASON

Ecclesiastes 3

1 To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:
2 A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted;
3 A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up;
4 A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance;
5 A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing;
6 A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away;
7 A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak;
8 A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace.

Ecclesiastes 7

13 Consider the work of God; For who can make straight what He has made crooked?
14 In the day of prosperity be joyful, But in the day of adversity consider: Surely God has appointed the one as well as the other, So that man can find out nothing that will come after him.

Ecclesiastes 9

1 For I considered all this in my heart, so that I could declare it all: that the righteous and the wise and their works are in the hand of God. People know neither love nor hatred by anything they see before them.
2 All things come alike to all: One event happens to the righteous and the wicked; To the good, the clean, and the unclean; To him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As is the good, so is the sinner; He who takes an oath as he who fears an oath.
3 This is an evil in all that is done under the sun: that one thing happens to all. Truly the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil; madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead.
4 But for him who is joined to all the living there is hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion.

- There is an appointed time for everything that we go through! To EVERYTHING there is a season, and EVERY season has a purpose! That's a powerful truth.
- Understanding this Sovereignty of God is a precious foundation for our faith. We can understand that EVERYTHING is planned and purposeful. Life is not an arbitrary series of actions and reactions. Nothing is accidental, coincidental or unknown to The Lord.

But for him who is joined to all the living there is hope! Hallelujah! For those who are Born Again and walking in The Spirit there is hope! In every season, in every difficulty, hardship and trial there is hope! Hallelujah! We are ALREADY BLESSED!! Jesus is more than enough!

EVERY SEASON IS PLANNED AND PURPOSED

Ecclesiastes 3

1 To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:

Jeremiah 29

11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Hebrews 12:2

2 ...Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...

Psalms 139

16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

- God really does know the end from the beginning. He has seasons, plans and a story written out for our faith to grow and prosper.
- We can get so caught up with wanting to be comfortable/"blessed" in our flesh life. Physically, socially, financially... etc that we forget. We are ALREADY BLESSED!
- TESTIFY of God's reminder, whilst walking in Watford, that I am ALREADY BLESSED despite my flesh circumstance.
- Life isn't meant to be easy. In the New Testament we are promised hardship...

John 16:33

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

1 Peter 4

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal which is taking place to test you [that is, to test the quality of your faith], as though something strange or unusual were happening to you.

- Jesus tells us plainly that we will suffer. Peter warns us not to be surprised or caught off guard. We ought to live with expectancy and watching.

2 Corinthians 4

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.
8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;
9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed-
10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.
11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

- Paul here doesn't complain in the flesh about poor treatment. He doesn't blame or come against the devil. He doesn't pray for ease.
- Paul saw the purpose of God in all that He went through, and He relished in that purpose! In everything Paul's desire was that the Jesus' abundant LIFE would be revealed and seen in Him. His focus and longing were that He would demonstrate the life, love, victory, power and joy of Jesus in His body, in His circumstance. He was ALREADY BLESSED and wanted the world to see that!
- Paul understood that everything that happened to Him happened for the glory of God! It wasn't the devil or the world that were in control, ordering His steps but God was making all things work together for good!

Philippians 1

12 But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,
 13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;
 14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

- Do we consider this when trials come? Do we consider the testimony of Jesus and take comfort and joy in letting His abundant life be seen? Is it our primary focus to consider how the Gospel might be better proclaimed? Is it evident to the world that our chains are in Christ?
- EVERY season has a purpose. In EVERY season and circumstance The Lord is seeking to draw us closer to Himself, to strengthen us and to Glorify Himself IN us! To demonstrate His glory to the world. To be a witness and to testify of His Life!
- Satan will tempt you to destroy you but God will test you to strengthen you.

 This is not merely Paul's special attitude. These are the words of someone who loves The Lord and is completely surrendered to serving and glorifying Him. This is The Life of Christ being demonstrated in Paul's conduct and conversation as He says to the Corinthians.

HARD SEASONS ARE DESIRED

Song of Solomon 4

9 You have ravished my heart, My sister, my spouse; You have ravished my heart With one look of your eyes, With one link of your necklace.
 10 How fair is your love, My sister, my spouse! How much better than wine is your love, And the scent of your perfumes Than all spices!
 11 Your lips, O my spouse, Drip as the honeycomb; Honey and milk are under your tongue; And the fragrance of your garments Is like the fragrance of Lebanon.
 12 A garden enclosed Is my sister, my spouse, A spring shut up, A fountain sealed.
 13 Your plants are an orchard of pomegranates With pleasant fruits, Fragrant henna with spikenard,
 14 Spikenard and saffron, Calamus and cinnamon, With all trees of frankincense, Myrrh and aloes, With all the chief spices-
 15 A fountain of gardens, A well of living waters, And streams from Lebanon.
 16 Awake, O north wind, And come, O south! Blow upon my garden, That its spices may flow out. Let my beloved come to his garden And eat its pleasant fruits.

- It is incredible to consider that The Lord would speak this way about His bride. God has such passionate longing and desire for His church. He is in love with her beauty, her faithfulness in tending the garden, her discipline, her care...
- But look at the request of the Shulamite bride... She is asking for discomfort. She is asking to be disturbed. She is asking for the unpleasant. She is asking for opportunity to share her fragrance for her beloved.
- The fragrance won't flow until the winds blow. Love is not love until it is tested/proved! That is the message of this Bible!

2 Corinthians 2

14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.
 15 For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.
 16 To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life....

- Oh how I long to be a sweet fragrance of Jesus to Our Father! Oh Lord may You be seen in Your people! May we be an aroma of Christ!
- Do we desire the winds to blow? Do we have a longing of the fragrance to be produced?

James 1

2 brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,
 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.
 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

- We really can rejoice in suffering if we are in love with Jesus. He is forming us to be more like Him and causing His fragrance to be produced in us. From all that time spent in the secret place, reading His word, seeking Him in prayer... All that He has poured into these lives will start to flow out...

1 Peter 4

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal which is taking place to test you [that is, to test the quality of your faith], as though something strange or unusual were happening to you.
 13 But insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, keep on rejoicing, so that when His glory is revealed, you may rejoice with great joy.
 14 If you are insulted and reviled for [bearing] the name of Christ, you are blessed [happy, with life-joy and comfort in God's salvation regardless of your circumstances], because the Spirit of glory and of God is resting on you [and indwelling you].

- May we always be rejoicing in our beloved. No matter our circumstance, no matter the storm. May we be joyful for opportunities to demonstrate His love in us for Himself and those around us! May we have hearts that seek for the winds to come in order that His fragrance may flow out of our lives!

 GOD'S CHILDREN ARE ALREADY BLESSED!! And the world sees and smells the sweet fragrance of Christ in them. Does the world see and know that we are triumphing in Christ? Do they see LIFE, VICTORY, PEACE?

WE ARE ALREADY BLESSED! Sometimes we just need to remember that!
