

The background features a dark blue gradient with a starry sky pattern. Overlaid on this are several faint, light-colored diagrams of celestial bodies and orbits. These include circles with arrows indicating rotation or orbital direction, and larger circular paths with tick marks and numerical labels (140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260) representing degrees of longitude or latitude.

Understanding *the* Times and Seasons

Part III

Week One....

1 Chronicles 12:32 (NLT)

*32 From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. All these men **understood the signs of the times** and **knew the best course** for Israel to take.*

We Learned Some Key Lessons From The Sons of Issachar

Their Confidence In Their Role And Responsibility

Their Clarity About The Moment

Their Courage To Do The Right Thing

Last Week

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NKJV)

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

Understand....

The Pain Of Pruning Season

The Patience of Preparation Season

The Purpose of Prospering Season

Tonight

We Will Examine The Spiritual Progress Of Elijah Through Various Seasons

Introduction

The life of Elijah is a powerful biblical example of how God moves His servants *through different seasons* of preparation, provision, confrontation, and renewal.

God is often working through **CHANGING SEASONS** to prepare us for **GREATER ASSIGNMENTS**.

God usually leads His faithful people **A STEP AT A TIME** as they tune their hearts **to His Word**.

Tonight, We Will Discover That God didn't give Elijah **A THREE-YEAR SCHEDULE TO FOLLOW**. Instead, He directed his servant **at each critical juncture** in his journey, and *Elijah obeyed by faith*.

There are two commands in the Elijah narrative that serve as bookends to his journey...

In 1 Kings 17:3 ~ God says to Elijah **“Go Hide Yourself”**

In 1 Kings 18:1 ~ In the 3rd year, God says to Elijah **“Go and Present Yourself”**

Before God Gives Us Victory On Mt. Carmel ~ We Must Prove Faithful By The Brook of Cherith
What God does **in you in secret** is what He displays **through you in public**.

Tonight, We Will Focus On **Each Season**
Trusting Season, Transition Season, Teaching Season,
Testing Season, Triumphant Season, Troubling Season

The Trusting Season

1 Kings 17:2-4

2 Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah:

3 "Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Cherith Ravine, east of the Jordan.

4 You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to feed you **THERE**."

Many People **Trust God**... But What Is Your **Level Of Trust** ~ Is It **Consistent** ~ Is It **Complete**

Proverbs 3:5 (NIV)

5 Trust in the Lord **WITH ALL YOUR HEART** and lean not on your own understanding;

God Has A Specific Place For Developing Your Trust ~ Usually A Place Of Isolation

God Sends A Word To Elijah About The Place For This Season

1 Samuel 22:1 (ESV) ~ 1 David departed from there and **escaped to the cave of Adullam**....

The Brook "Cherith" ~ "to cut off" ~ **The name of the brook suggests that in this season You may be...**

1. Cut off from the public spotlight ~ **Solitude before Service**
2. Cut off from the familiar ~ **Detachment To Learn Dependence**
3. Cut off from any distractions ~ **Getting Accustomed To One Voice**

YOU CANNOT DEVELOP A SENSITIVE EAR IN A NOISY ENVIRONMENT

Social media has convinced a generation that **the goal is popularity** — follower counts, **measuring engagement**, building of a personal brand.

The Trusting Season

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In This Season God Builds Trust Through His Provisions

Notice **The Sovereignty** Of The Provision ~ "I have ordered the ravens to feed you there"

The Provisions Were At The Place In The Season Before His Arrival

Trust That In This Season God Will **Sustain You**

The will of God will never lead us where the grace of God cannot keep us and care for us

Notice **The Source** Of The Provision ~ "I have ordered the ravens to feed you there"

In This Season, **Don't Confuse The Source with the Resource**

God Was The Source ~ The Ravens Were The Means Of Transportation

The Reason Why Many People Desire To Stay In Places/Seasons

Is Because **They Are Confused About The Source**

Expect God To Use **Unexpected Resources** To Supply His Servant **In This Season**

God Wants To **Build A Trust** That Operates **Outside Of The Natural Expectation**

The Trusting Season

1 Kings 17:5-6 (NLT)

5 So Elijah did as the Lord told him and camped beside Cherith Brook, east of the Jordan.

6 The ravens brought him bread and meat **each morning and evening**,
and he drank from the brook.

In This Season, God Is Developing Your Trust In His Word

Can You Trust God With The Simple Commands

You cannot **receive the next word** if you are still **debating the last one**.

Obedience to the **current word** is the prerequisite for **receiving the next word**.

Isaiah 1:19 ~ "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land."

In This Season, God Is Building A Trust In Daily Provisions

A Daily Encounter ~ Builds Daily Gratitude, and Develops Daily Expectation

At Cherith, Elijah had **NOTHING BUT GOD**. **No ministry to perform, no crowd to address, no miracles to demonstrate. Just God.** And in that season of isolation, something happened between Elijah and God that could not have happened on any public stage

The Transition Season

1 Kings 17:7-8 (ESV)

7 And *after a while the brook dried up*, because there was no rain in the land.

8 *Then* the word of the Lord came to him,

The Brook Dries Up!!!

Not because Elijah sinned. Not because God was displeased. Not because the assignment had failed.

THE BROOK DRIED UP BECAUSE THE SEASON WAS OVER.

Transition Season Is the space between WHAT WAS and WHAT IS COMING.

God dries up *what is seasonal* to drive you toward what is permanent.

Watchman Nee, "God has to frequently change *His means of supply*
TO KEEP OUR EYES FIXED ON THE SOURCE."

Staying at a dried brook is one of the *most common, most costly,*
and most spiritually sophisticated mistakes a leader can make.

The Challenge: It looks like faithfulness. It looks like perseverance.

It looks like refusing to give up on what God gave you.

But when the brook is dry — when the season is conclusively over — remaining is not faithfulness.

IT IS THE RESISTANCE OF THE NEXT SEASON DISGUISED AS LOYALTY TO THE LAST ONE.

The Transition Season

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8 *Then* the word of the Lord came to him,

Transitions Requires Trusting In God's Word

Psalm 119:105 ~ "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Transition is the season in which hearing God's voice is simultaneously *most critical and most difficult*.

Most critical because the stakes of a wrong turn are highest in transition

*...A misstep between seasons can land you on a counterfeit assignment,
or a prolonged wilderness that God never intended.*

Most difficult because transition is the season when the most voices compete for your attention

*There Is tension with your own desires, other people's expectations,
fear of the unknown, the comfort of the familiar*

All The Voices Are Speaking Loud In This Season

Jonah 1:1 (NIV) ~ The word of the Lord came to Jonah, son of Amittai:

Jonah 2:1 (NIV) ~ From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God.

Jonah 3:1 (NIV) ~ *Then* the word of the Lord came to Jonah *a second time*:

The Teaching Season

1 Kings 17:13-15 (NIV)

13 Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. **But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son.** 14 For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord gives rain on the land.'" 15 She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family.

Zarephath is the place where everything Elijah learned at Cherith was TESTED AND TAUGHT

Elijah Had Spent A Season Learning To Trust In God PERSONALLY

Now It Is Time For Him To Teach Others To Trust In The God Who Has Proven Himself Faithful

Isolation Prepared Him To Make An Impact On Other Individuals

This Is where the student of divine provision graduated into the teacher of divine provision.

YOU CAN NEVER TEACH OTHERS WHAT YOU HAVE NOT FIRST LEARNED YOURSELF.

Hebrews 5:12 (NLT)

12 **You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others.** Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food.

In This Season, You Share Experiential Knowledge

This is the knowledge that carries authority when it is spoken, because it has been purchased at personal cost and proven under actual pressure.

The Testing Season

1 Kings 17:17-21 (NIV)

17 *Some time later* the son of the woman who owned the house *became ill*. He grew worse and worse, and *finally stopped breathing*. 18 She said to Elijah, "What do you have against me, *man of God*? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?" 19 "Give me your son," Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. 20 Then he cried out to the Lord, "O Lord my God, have you brought tragedy also upon this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?" 21 Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried to the Lord, "O Lord my God, let this boy's life return to him!"

God Expands Your Trust Beyond The Area Of Familiarity

*Trusting God For Provision Is Foundational
Trusting Him For The Impossible Is Next Level*

Prayer Life Is Developed In This Season

Up Until Now, Elijah has been communicating with God... *Now He Learns To CRY OUT TO GOD*

The Depth Of The Pain, Deepens The Level Of Trust In His Power

1 Kings 17:22-24 (NLT)

22 The Lord heard Elijah's prayer, and the life of the child returned, and he revived! 23 Then Elijah brought him down from the upper room and gave him to his mother. "Look!" he said. "Your son is alive!" 24 Then the woman told Elijah, "*Now I know FOR SURE that you are a man of God, and that the Lord truly speaks through you.*"

The Triumphant Season

1 Kings 18:36-39 (NLT)

36 At the usual time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet walked up to the altar and prayed, “O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, prove today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant.

Prove that I have done all this at your command.

37 O Lord, answer me! Answer me so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God and that you have brought them back to yourself.”

38 Immediately the fire of the Lord flashed down from heaven and burned up the young bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust. It even licked up all the water in the trench! 39 And when **ALL THE PEOPLE SAW IT**, they fell face down on the ground and cried out, “The Lord—he is God! Yes, the Lord is God!”

After 3 Years Of Private Preparation ~ Now Elijah Is In The Public Spotlight

You Can't Handle The 450 Prophets Of Baal Without Being Prepared With The Widow at Zerephath

It Is In This Season That God Publicly Displays What He Has Privately Deposited

He Is Confident About God's Power

Elijah Petitioned For God To Display Publicly What He Had Seen Privately

1 Samuel 17:34-37 (NLT)

34 But David persisted. “*I have been taking care of my father's sheep and goats*,” he said. “When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, 35 I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me,

I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. 36 I have done this to both lions and bears, and I'll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God!

37 **The Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!**”

The Troubling Season

1 Kings 19:1-4 (NKJV)

1 And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword.

2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." 3 AND WHEN HE SAW THAT, he arose and ran for his life,

and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!"

This Is A Troubling Season

The Man Who Called Down Fire From Heaven...The Man Who Prophesied That It Will Not Rain

The Man Who Revived A Widow's Son

Is Now Fearful and Fleeing In A Time Of Adversity {In 24 Hours}

In The Aftermath of Great Victory Is The Reminder Of Human Vulnerability

There Are Some Seasons Where We Reflect and Ask.... Why Did I Do That?

How Did This Happen?

His Focused Shifted From The Voice Of God To The Voice Of His Enemy

In This Season, Whose Voice Has Your Ear

She Did Not Send An Army.... She Sent A Message/A Word

He Was Intimidated By The Image of the Message

The Troubling Season

1 Kings 19:1-4 (NLT)

4 Then he went on alone into the wilderness, **traveling all day**. He sat down under a solitary broom tree and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life, for I am no better than my ancestors who have already died."

Elijah Is Experiencing Burnout

The Battles With The Prophets ~ The Stress of A Drought Has Taken Its Toll

Be Mindful That There Is A Weariness That Comes With Serving In Season and Out Of Season

Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)

9 And let us not **grow weary while doing good**, for in due season we shall reap **if we do not lose heart**.

1 Kings 19:5-8 (NLT)

5 Then he lay down and **slept under the broom tree**. But as he was **sleeping**, an angel touched him and told him, "**Get up and eat!**" 6 He looked around and there beside his head was some bread baked on hot stones and a jar of water! So he ate and drank and lay down again. 7 Then the angel of the Lord came again and touched him and said, "**Get up and eat some more, or the journey ahead will be too much for you.**" 8 So he got up and ate and drank, and the food gave him enough strength to travel forty days and forty nights to Mount Sinai, the mountain of God.

In This Season, God Addressed The Body Before He Addressed The Soul

*God Had To **Feed Him** And **Strengthen Him** Because He Was **Not Finished With Him***

In Conclusion... Recognize The Shifting In Seasons

Trusting Season

Transition Season

Teaching Season

Testing Season

Triumphant Season

Troubling Season

IN EVERY SEASON... HEAR AND HEAD THE VOICE OF GOD