

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 II*

# *Key Verses*

## *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.*

## *Last Week....*

*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*

# *Key Verses*

## *Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NKJV)*

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

## *Ecclesiastes 3:1 (MSG)*

*1 There's an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on the earth...*

## *Ecclesiastes 3:1 (TLB)*

*1 There is a right time for everything...*

## Introduction

As we discussed last week... It is important **TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND YOUR SEASON**  
So That You Will Know What To Do and **Where To Do It**

If we understand the season we are in, we can **respond appropriately** and **grow through it**.

Not every season **feels the same**, but every season has purpose.

**Understanding the season** allows you to **cooperate with what God is doing** instead of resisting it.  
One of the most valuable abilities a believer can develop is **the ability to recognize the season they are in**.

Life is not static. It moves in cycles. It moves in phases. It moves in seasons.

**Genesis 8:22 (NIV)**

22 "**As long as the earth endures**, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night **will never cease**."

There are seasons when God is **removing things**, seasons when God is **developing things**, and seasons when God is **releasing things**.

Many Believers Are **Experiencing Frustration** because they are **consistently misreading their season**.  
And many become **discouraged in seasons** that were never meant to be permanent.  
The problem is not always **the season itself**... It Is Your Understanding Of It

**SEASONS ARE NOT DESIGNED TO BE EXPLAINED.... JUST ENDURED**

## *Introduction*

*So tonight*

*We want to explore three seasons that God often brings His people through:*

*A Pruning Season*

*A Preparation Season*

*A Prospering Season*

*If We Have **A Clear Understanding** Of The Season...*

*You don't Become Bitter in Pruning Season*

*You don't Become Restless in Preparation Season*

*You don't Become Proudful in Prospering Season*

# *The Pain Of Pruning Season*

*John 15:2 (NKJV)*

*2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit **HE PRUNES**, that it may **BEAR MORE FRUIT**.*

*In this Season, God **Removes** Things That May Be **Unhealthy** ~ Unnecessary ~ Unproductive ~ **Ungodly***

*In This Season, God Is **Adding By Subtracting**  
Pruning removes what hinders **SO THAT** fruit can increase.  
**The Goal Of Pruning Season Is To Produce More Fruit***

***UNDERSTAND THIS:** Pruning is **NOT PUNISHMENT**; it is **preparation for greater productivity**.  
**THIS IS THE SEASON OF INTENTIONAL REDUCTION***

*Before you respond to what is being removed,  
**WHAT DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE ABOUT THE ONE DOING THE REMOVING.***

*Isaiah 18:5 (NKJV)*

*5 For before the harvest, when the bud is perfect And the sour grape is ripening in the flower, **HE WILL** both cut off the sprigs with pruning hooks And **HE WILL** take away and cut down the branches.*

# *The Pain Of Pruning Season*

## *Signs you are in Pruning Season:*

*Doors are closing that you did not close*  
*Relationships are shifting and changing*  
*Your Space Feels Restricted*  
*Feels Like Everything Is Falling Apart*

## *Why Does Understanding This Season Matters*

*If you misunderstand this season, you will continue **trying to fix what God Is Removing***  
*Many believers assume **SOMETHING IS WRONG** during this season...*  
*But Pruning is often **evidence that God EXPECTS MORE FRUIT FROM YOUR LIFE***  
*God Prunes Because He Sees Potential*

*In This Season....Don't Become Angry.... Don't Become Anxious*  
*Instead.... **"Abide In Him"** ~ John 15:4*

*Pruning season is not a sabbatical from purpose. **Keep inquiring. Keep serving. Keep protecting.***  
***YOUR ASSIGNMENT DOES NOT PAUSE BECAUSE YOUR SEASON IS PAINFUL.***

# The Pain Of Pruning Season

## Biblical Example

Genesis 12:1-2 (NKJV)

1 Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.

2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

God was making room for what Abraham could not yet receive **WHILE ATTACHED TO WHAT WAS FAMILIAR.**

Genesis 22:1-2 (NKJV)

1 Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

2 Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

God will sometimes prune what **YOU LOVE**  
to ensure you have not **TRANSFERRED YOUR AFFECTION** to the gift instead of the Giver.

# *The Patience of Preparation Season*

*1 Peter 5:6 (NKJV)*

*6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that HE MAY EXALT YOU IN DUE TIME,*

*IN PREPARATION SEASONS, we often feel stuck, hidden, and unnoticed.*

*In This Season...GOD DEVELOPS*

*Character ~ Faithfulness ~ Humility ~ Discipline*

*God PREPARES THE PERSON before He releases you TO THE PLATFORM.*

*You have A WORD/VISION FROM GOD but no platform.*

*You have AN ANOINTING BUT NO AUDIENCE.*

*You have PURPOSE/VALUE BUT THE DOORS REMAINS CLOSED.*

*PREPARATION SEASONS are often the longest and least celebrated — yet they are truly necessary.*

*PREPARATION SEASONS are often characterized by obscurity and isolation.*

*What God builds in you during preparation determines what He can build through you in prosperity.*

# *The Patience of Preparation Season*

*1 Peter 5:6 (NKJV)*

*6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,*

## *Signs You May Be In Preparation Season*

*Growth feels slow but steady*

*Opportunities Feel Limited But Not Absent*

*God is Teaching Patience and Discipline*

*You Are Learning Lessons That Will Be Necessary Later*

*You are Serving Someone Else's Vision Faithfully*

## *There Is A Phase In Preparation Season That Looks Like Prospering Season*

*Genesis 39:2-6 (NKJV)*

*2 The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.*

*3 And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand.*

*4 So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority. 5 So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had in the house and in the field. 6 Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's hand...*

*He Had Success As Overseer In The HOUSE.... His Purpose Was To Prosper and Oversee The Nation*

# *The Patience of Preparation Season*

## *How To Handle Preparation Seasons*

*1) Remain Faithful In Small Things ~ 2) Know That God Is Testing Your Faithfulness*

### *1 Samuel 17:17-23 (NKJV)*

*17 Then Jesse said to his son David, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this dried grain and these ten loaves, and run to your brothers at the camp. 18 And carry these ten cheeses to the captain of their thousand, and see how your brothers fare, and bring back news of them."*

*19 Now Saul and they and all the men of Israel were in the Valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.*

*20 So David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, and took the things and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the camp as the army was going out to the fight and shouting for the battle.*

*21 For Israel and the Philistines had drawn up in battle array, army against army.*

*22 And David left his supplies in the hand of the supply keeper, ran to the army, and came and greeted his brothers.*

*23 THEN AS HE TALKED WITH THEM, there was the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, coming up from the armies of the Philistines; and he spoke according to the same words. SO DAVID HEARD THEM.*

*David Was Being Faithful In Preparation Season....*

*Then His Season Shifted*

# *The Patience of Preparation Season*

## *BIBLICAL EXAMPLES*

*Acts 7:20-22 (NKJV)*

*20 At this time Moses was born and was well pleasing to God; and he was brought up in his father's house for three months. 21 But when he was set out, Pharaoh's daughter took him away and brought him up as her own son. 22 And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds.*

*Exodus 3:1 (NKJV)*

*1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.*

*Moses Spent the first 40 years of his life **LEARNING THE EGYPTIAN CULTURE**  
God was preparing him **to speak to power** because he had been **raised around power***

*Moses Spent the next 40 years **LEARNING THE TERRAIN OF THE WILDERNESS**  
God was preparing him to lead Israel through territory he already understood*

***WHAT LOOKED LIKE DETOURS WAS ACTUALLY DIVINE DEVELOPMENT.***

# The Purpose of Prospering Season

*Psalms 1:3 (NKJV)*

*3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; **AND WHATEVER HE DOES SHALL PROSPER.***

**PROSPERING SEASONS** occur when *preparation* begins to *bear visible fruit*.

*Prospering Seasons Reveal the fruit of previous seasons*

**PROSPERING SEASON** is not the absence of opposition — it is the season when *your assignment and your anointing converge*, and what God has been building *internally* begins to produce *external fruit*.

*It is marked by acceleration, **open doors**, **multiplication**, and **influence**.*

*Prosperity Is A Blessing, but it also carries **RESPONSIBILITY***

## Dangers in the Prospering Season

*Success can produce ~ **Pride** ~ **Complacency** ~ **Forgetfulness of God***

*Deuteronomy 8:11-14 (NIV)*

*11 Be careful that you do not **forget the Lord your God**, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. 12 Otherwise, **WHEN** you eat and are satisfied, **WHEN** you build fine houses and settle down, 13 and **WHEN** your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, 14 then your heart will **become proud and you will forget the Lord your God**, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.*

# *The Purpose of Prospering Season*

*Psalms 1:3 (NKJV)*

*3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season,  
Whose leaf also shall not wither; **AND WHATEVER HE DOES SHALL PROSPER.***

## *Signs You May Be In A Prospering Season*

*Doors Begin To Open Quickly*

*Influence Increases*

*Opportunities Expand*

*Favor Becomes Visible*

## *Proper Response To This Season*

*Stay Humble and Steward The Blessing*

*IN THE PROSPERING SEASON, THE GREATEST ENEMY WILL BE WITHIN*

## *In Conclusion*

*Every Believer Will Experience These Seasons Repeatedly*

*Understanding The Season, Will Enable You To Respond Correctly*

*Understand....*

*The Pain Of Pruning Season*

*The Patience of Preparation Season*

*The Purpose of Prospering Season*