

The background features a dark blue gradient with a starry sky pattern. Overlaid on this are several faint, light-colored diagrams of celestial spheres or orbits. These diagrams include concentric circles, arcs, and dashed lines, some with small arrows indicating direction. A prominent circular scale with numerical markings (140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260) is visible on the left side, resembling a celestial longitude or latitude scale.

Understanding *the* Times and Seasons

Part IV

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

Week Two

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

Last Week...

We Examined The Spiritual Progress Of Elijah Through Various Seasons

Trusting Season

Transition Season

Teaching Season

Testing Season

Triumphant Season

Troubling Season

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

Tonight

We Will Examine An Interesting Snapshot In the Life of King David

Key Passage

1 Samuel 22:1-5 (NIV)

1 David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam.

When his brothers and his father's household heard about it, they went down to him there.

2 All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their leader. About four hundred men were with him.

3 From there David went to Mizpah in Moab and said to the king of Moab, "Would you let my father and mother come and stay with you until I learn what God will do for me?"

4 So he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him as long as David was in the stronghold.

5 But the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not stay in the stronghold. Go into the land of Judah." So David left and went to the forest of Hereth.

Introduction

*When You Ask Most People About **The Life Of King David**, Many Will Talk About...*

Defeating Goliath

Affair With Bethsheba

Being Anointed In Front Of His Brothers

Defeating The Bear and The Lion

Dancing Before The Lord With All His Might

Encouraging Himself In The Lord

Writing The Powerful Psalms

*But Rarely Do We Talk About **His Experience** In The Cave Of Adullam*

*The Word "**Cave**" ~ means a "**carved out space**"*

*It is interesting that God uses **this Cave** As **A Place Of Development***

It is in the Cave that

David's Leadership Skills Are Developed

David's Army Is Developed

David's Trust In God Is Developed

*In This Season, God Has Carved Out **A Particular Space** For Your Development*

Introduction

Over the Past 3 weeks, We have talked about *SEVERAL SEASONS*
Pruning, Preparation, Prospering
Trusting, Transition, Teaching, Testing, Triumphant, Troubling...

There are Moments In Life When You Can Clearly Identify The Season You're In

But There Is A Season, When God Is Doing Multiple Works In Your Life At The Same Time
There Is A Season, When There Is A Combination Of Seasons Working Together
This Is A PECULIAR SEASON

A Peculiar Season Is A Divinely Designed Season
Where Multiple Spiritual Processes Are Happening Simultaneously

You Are Being Pruned, But Learning To Trust In God
You Are Being Prepared, But Transitioning
You Are Prospering, But It Seems Troubling
You Are Being Tested, But Teaching Others To Trust In God

In This Season, You Don't Know What Is Going On... You Just Know Something Is Going On

You Can't Explain This Season, You Just Have To Endure This Season

Season Of Restoration and Preparation

1 Samuel 22:1-2 (NIV)

1 David left Gath and *escaped to the cave of Adullam.*

You Cannot Understand The Comfort of the Cave Without The Context of The Cave

1 Samuel 21:8-9 (NIV)

8 David asked Ahimelech, "*Don't you have a spear or a sword here?* I haven't brought my sword or any other weapon, because the king's business was urgent."

9 The priest replied, "*The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Valley of Elah, is here;* it is wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. *If you want it, take it;* there is no sword here but that one."

David said, "*There is none like it; give it to me.*"

1 Samuel 21:10-13 (NIV)

10 That day David fled from Saul and went to Achish king of Gath.

11 But the servants of Achish said to him, "*Isn't this David, the king of the land? Isn't he the one they sing about in their dances: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands?"*"

12 David took these words to heart and *was very much afraid of Achish king of Gath.*

13 So he pretended to be insane in their presence; and while he was in their hands he acted like a madman, making marks on the doors of the gate and letting saliva run down his beard.

In the midst of difficult times, God provides a place of refuge... A place of Escape...

Season Of Restoration and Preparation

1 Samuel 22:1-2 (NIV)

1 David left Gath and **escaped to the cave of Adullam.**

*In The Midst of this Troubling Season, God Has To Purge/Prune David Of Fear
By Providing Him A Way Of Escape*

*David Is **Fractured Mentally, Spiritually,** and **Psychologically**
He is demonstrating Character That Does Not Represent A KING **or** THE KING
He is fearful, lying, deceptive, and disoriented*

The Cave Becomes A Necessary Season Of Recovery

*God Begins to Build What is Broken
God Begins to Repair What Is Damaged*

IN THIS SEASON... HE BEGINS TO PUT HIS TRUST BACK IN GOD

Psalms 142:1-7 (NLT)

*1 I cry out to the Lord; I plead for the Lord's mercy. 2 I pour out my complaints before him and tell him all my troubles. 3 When I am overwhelmed, you alone know the way I should turn. Wherever I go, my enemies have set traps for me. 4 I look for someone to come and help me, but no one gives me a passing thought! No one will help me; no one cares a bit what happens to me. 5 Then I pray to you, O Lord. I say, "You are my place of refuge. **You are all I really want in life.** 6 Hear my cry, for I am very low. Rescue me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me. 7 Bring me out of prison so I can thank you. **The godly will crowd around me, for you are good to me.**"*

Season Of Restoration and Preparation

1 Samuel 22:1-2 (NIV)

1 David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and his father's household heard about it, they went down to him there. 2 All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their leader. About four hundred men were with him.

God Does Not Give Him Responsibility Until He Is Repaired
It Is Difficult To Help Others When You Are Hurting Yourself
In This Season, There Is A Time Of Healing Before Helping

Restoration Of Self and Restoration With What Is Closely Connected To You

His Father ~ 1 Samuel 16:11 (NIV)

11 So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

His Brothers ~ 1 Samuel 17:28 (NLT)

28 But when David's oldest brother, Eliab, heard David talking to the men, he was angry. "What are you doing around here anyway?" he demanded. "What about those few sheep you're supposed to be taking care of? I know about your pride and deceit. You just want to see the battle!"

You Are Restored For Service When You Can Deal With Those Who Overlooked You and Mistreated You
Before You Move Forward... Have You Reconciled With Your Past
God Will Not Allow You To Bring Bitterness and Brokenness Into Your Season of Blessing

Season Of Teaching, Testing and Trusting

1 Samuel 22:1-2 (NIV)

1 David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and his father's household heard about it, they went down to him there. 2 All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their leader. About four hundred men were with him.

While David Is Hurting and Helpless, It Would Make Sense For God To Send Him Qualified Help In This Season, What Arrives, Does Not Resemble What You Prayed For

Psalms 57:2-3 (NLT)

2 I cry out to God Most High, to God who will fulfill his purpose for me. 3 He will send help from heaven to rescue me, disgracing those who hound me. My God will send forth his unfailing love and faithfulness.

Trust That God Sends What Is Sufficient ~ Trust That God Sends What Is Necessary

GOD SENDS ANSWERS DISGUISED AS ASSIGNMENTS

God Builds His Kingdom With Those Who Are Committed Not Qualified

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 (NLT)

26 Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. 27 Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful.

28 God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. 29 AS A RESULT, NO ONE CAN EVER BOAST IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

David BECOMES in this Season what he has been ANOINTED TO BE!!!

Season Of Teaching, Testing and Trusting

1 Samuel 22:1-2 (NIV)

1 David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and his father's household heard about it, they went down to him there. 2 All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their leader. About four hundred men were with him.

David Is Teaching/Training And Learning At The Same Time

David is Developing/Training These 400 men into a mighty army

AT THE SAME TIME

1 Samuel 22:3-4 (NLT)

3 Later David went to Mizpeh in Moab, where he asked the king, "Please allow my father and mother to live here with you UNTIL I KNOW WHAT GOD IS GOING TO DO FOR ME."

4 So David's parents stayed in Moab with the king during the entire time David was living in his stronghold.

David Refused To Move UNTIL He knew What God Was Doing

He didn't have all the details, But He Knew God Was Working In This Season

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

28 And WE KNOW that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Season Of Transition

1 Samuel 22:5 (ESV)

5 Then the prophet Gad said to David, “**DO NOT REMAIN IN THE STRONGHOLD**; depart, and go into the land of Judah.”

God Sends The Word ~ “DO NOT REMAIN in the place of Preparation Forever”

*This Season Was Necessary But It Was Also Temporary
The Cave Was Not The Destination.... Only A Place Of Development*

*Like Elijah, The Word Of God Is The Foundation For Transition
Are You In Tune With The Voice of God*

Word of Warning About Transition

1 Samuel 22:6 (NIV)

6 Now Saul heard that David and his men had been **discovered**. And Saul, **spear in hand**, was seated under the tamarisk tree on the hill at Gibeah, with all his officials standing around him.

THE SAME ENEMY IS STILL SEEKING WHOM HE MAY DEVOUR...

HE IS NOT DIFFERENT, BUT YOU SHOULD BE!!!!

In Conclusion

*Don't Spend Time Trying To Figure Out What Season You Are In...
Just UNDERSTAND That You Are In A SEASON*

*There May Be A Peculiar Season
When God Is Working Multiple Things Together For Your Growth and Development*

*You May Be In
Pruning ~ Preparation ~ Prospering*

*You May Be In
Trusting ~ Transition ~ Teaching ~ Testing ~ Triumphant ~ Troubling*

*You May Be In All Of Them
At The Same Time*

The Same God In One Season... Is The God Of All Seasons