

Discerning the times and the seasons

by Eric McKenna

The Sons of Issachar were those that knew which Season it was. This sounds like a family gifting passed on from Issachar, a son of Jacob, to the next generation and by possible implication to further generations. Presumably, it was a spiritual ability that was modelled by Issachar and taught formally or informally to his offspring. Presumably, others were aware of it and people perhaps came to inquire as to the 'season', that is to ask for guidance as to which course of action would prosper and which would not. This sounds to me like a Prophetic/Seer type of anointing which contained a good measure of Spiritual discernment and revelation.

Over the years I have noted that certain young Christians are more perceptive than many others, having almost a natural gifting or bent towards seeing in the Spirit. Many successful Prophetic Ministers had regular spiritual experiences before conversion, often starting in childhood. How great is your perception of God's Seasons? God has His own priorities and timetable. God is wise and prepares the ground for His next phase of activity in a careful manner. 'God will do nothing without first revealing it to His Prophets' and 'the Secret of the Lord is with those that fear Him' and 'can two walk together lest they be agreed?' This is only of consolation to those that are in contact with such people or those that possess such gifting or relationship with God.

This is a Season to buy oil, to keep our lamps full, our reserves plentiful and our wicks trimmed. We should invest in the 'Sons of Issachar anointing' and seek a measure of it for ourselves. Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 5:1, 'But concerning the Times and the Seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you'. Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, 'to everything there is a Season, a Time for every purpose under Heaven'. If we do not know the Time or the Season, then we do not know the Purpose of God, then we cannot co-labour with Christ effectively and we are then in danger of working the works of the flesh through ignorance. Our rewards

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depend on our obedience. Futile effort is not a substitute for the works of God. Obedience is better than sacrifice. Jesus only did what he saw the Father doing and only said what He heard the Father saying. Should we do less?

How can we walk in this 'Sons of Issachar' revelation?

Spend more time meditating in the Word of God and note any revelation.

Spend more time soaking in the presence of God and note any revelation.

Attend more meetings where other 'Sons of Issachar' attend and where such ministries are ministering. Keep notes.

Read relevant books and listen to audiotapes and videotapes.

Listen carefully and record the relevant Prophetic Words from meetings. Test these carefully against scripture and scriptural principles.

Use the Internet to track the Prophetic words of worldwide status ministries.

Crosscheck these Revelations with others seeking to do the same. God says that He will confirm His word through two or three witnesses.

Seek to act appropriately on these revelations in your own Prayer life, ideally in conjunction with others and with the knowledge of your own Church minister.

Have these revelations confirmed by visiting oversight ministries that have relevant proven ministry.

Use these revelations in a corporate setting where accountability is recognised.

Link to other Prayer organisations to increase the power of the Prayer base.

Which Season is it and what Time is it now?

There are two key Greek words for Time: -

1. Chronos – simply designates a period or space of time.
2. Kairos - characterises the content and quality of time – God significant time.

Prayer Intercession can change Chronos times into Kairos times. I believe that the present season is characterised as follows: -

A Season of growing Global visitation by God.

A Season of Apostles and Prophets working together.

A Season of empowerment of the Saints - a Saints Movement.

A Season to break barrenness and to release side-lined ministries.

A Season to receive great blessings and breakthroughs.

A Season to open the ancient wells and to receive old and new cluster anointings.

A Season to re-envision and to dream big dreams again.

A Season to confront ungodly culture and to enforce new standards.

A Season to release another generation into the end time purposes of God.

A Season to make bold requests at the Throne of Grace.

A Season to intercede on behalf of the lost and to plant Churches.

A Season for those who believe in their God to do exploits.

Which factors contribute towards success in Discerning the Times and the Seasons?

1. Individuals need to have a real daily revitalising relationship with God.
2. Individuals need to have a clear Biblical understanding of who they are in Christ. We need to be grounded deeply in the work of the Cross of Christ.

3. Individuals need to have a clear understanding of Legal Rights issues and how the Kingdom of God can be enforced over Satanic strategies.
4. Individuals need to have a clear understanding of the Victory of Christ on the Cross and of its implications in order to cast out demons and to heal the sick
5. Individuals need to gather in Jesus' name regularly and to develop relationships that will hold together during spiritual conflicts. Issue focused people will not withstand the same pressures as issued focused people who have godly relationships. There needs to be a forum for reconciliation at all levels.
6. Individuals need to develop their ability to speak in tongues powerfully.
7. Individuals need to develop strategies for fasting and prayer for breakthroughs.
8. Christian authority structures need to be honoured and respected.
9. Church leaders need to participate and to oversee their own Church members in this context. When Church leaders see the 'City Church' things take shape quickly.
10. Lengthy spontaneous worship should be encouraged and prophetic song should be developed. In this context God may heal and deliver without specific prayer.
11. Prophetic acts should be encouraged as they have biblical precedents.
12. Christians with proven gifts of discerning spirits should be valued.