

Hi all,

In Genesis 1:14 God made the lights (stars and planets) to shine through the water atmosphere of the earth saying, "Let them be for signs, for seasons, for days, for years...to give light upon the earth (v15)...and it was so."

This was not the creation of light, which was described in 1:3 in the famous words 'Let there be light', or more literally, 'Light. Be.'

The light of Genesis 1:14 is the recognition that physical light is God's creation made to serve Him and His purposes, and is therefore now ordered to provide such to the planet and its inhabitants. It is within these boundaries man's life exists, and within which He asks us to walk with Him.

**But I live in minutes and seconds!**

God moves in signs, seasons, days, years. The trouble is, we live in minutes and seconds. We get upset if a 2 hour high definition movie takes longer than mere seconds to load onto our electronic device. We cook food by microwave in minutes. If we are in a drive-through lane at a fast food restaurant more than 3 or 4 minutes we get agitated and wonder what is taking so long with the car in front of us. We wonder as we sit at a red light with no traffic around if we should run it, or wait for it to turn green. We expect life to move in seconds, and we therefore expect God to do the same as we try to make Him into our image, rather than us into His.

But He isn't moving. He moves in signs, seasons, days and years. Period. Get used to it. With Him, slow down. Waaaayyyy down. Learn to meet Him in His seasons of your life. Pursue the seasons of God in your life. (My book which details some of the early visitations with the Lord and my angel is called, *Pursuing the Seasons of God*). If you want to walk with Him, learn to appreciate a slower pace, develop your own culture of solitude as Abraham did when he stood under the stars at night contemplating the things of God and communing with Him. The Father isn't into performance based faith, He is into the process within the relationship.

The season of spring in the northern hemisphere looks like winter when it starts. But soon things begin to come alive, plants green, flowers bloom, and the end of spring looks almost like summer - like baby summer. The end of the spring looks very different from the start. Such is our seasons of life in Christ. More on this later...

How then do we then, who live in a world that runs faster than God, walk with Him? How do we live in the physical world by minutes and seconds while within us He is moving in signs, seasons, days and years? Externally we live in minutes and seconds. Christ in us moves in signs, seasons, days, and years.

### **What those Hebrew words of Genesis 1:14 mean**

The word 'sign' is 'oth' in Hebrew, and is used when God puts a 'mark' (sign) on Cain in 4:15, and is used of the rainbow as a 'token' (sign) in 9:12. One meaning would be the constellations, the zodiac - the original meaning of the 12 signs shows the story of Messiah and redemption on the earth. (I have a cd/mp3 series on this subject if interested), but if you go back to the original star names and constellations, you'll find the zodiac starts with Virgo the virgin giving birth to a son, all the way to Gemini, originally a bride and groom not twins (twisted by the Greeks), to the outpouring of the water of the Spirit in Aquarius to the return of Christ and destruction of Draco the Dragon. As the Rabbi's teach, Adam, Seth, and Enoch had perfect knowledge of the world and understood how it all worked.

Another application of 'sign' is that most basic; a marker for longer periods of time - era, epoch, age. These are the longer stretches of time, sum totals of many years, which gives us understanding that in God's mind, there are larger divisions of how He deals with man. This is confirmed in Ephesians 2:7 where we are told the Father God will "in the ages to come He will continue to show the incomparable riches of His grace, in His kindness towards us in Christ Jesus." The ages to come. Signs.

Spiritually these larger ages of our short lives might be compared to the maybe 20 years a parent has with children in the home. It may be the celebration of a 50th wedding anniversary or the retiring of a faithful employee after 20, 30, or 40 years of employment at a company.

A smaller unit of measuring time is 'seasons', and many seasons may make a 'sign' or age. Seasons here is both literally the seasons of the year, and therefore seasons in our own lives - the length of time a child is in diapers, the time where we are led to a particular church and then God moves us on, the season where God deals with us about a particular issue, and then He moves on to deal with us in another area. Interestingly, as we've all experienced, Satan (that infamous counterfeiter of the genuine) also tests us in seasons of time before backing off for a more opportune time. As seen in Luke 4:13 with the temptation of Jesus: "And when the devil had finished all his temptations, he left Him for a season."

It is interesting to note that next God mentions 'days and years'. Not years and days, continuing the flow from larger spans of time to shorter, but rather grouping 'days and years' together, with emphasis on 'days'. Of course many days comprise a year, but by mentioning days first, it shows us God is emphasizing each day in our life as a focus point.

The scriptures are full of references to making this day, this morning, count for the Lord. As a time to spend with Him, as a time understood as if each day is a bowl that can contain only a certain amount of trouble and worry, for tomorrow a new bowl is before us. Jesus said 'each day has enough evil of its own' in Matthew 6:34 in His exhortation to deal with today while it is day - tomorrow will come soon enough.

In the midst of his funeral dirge and mourning for the now destroyed city of Jerusalem and the carrying away of many captives to Babylon, Jeremiah yet said through his tears: "This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, says my soul; therefore will I hope in Him." Lamentations 3:21-24

We need to recognize each age, each season, each day and year *spiritually*, in our lives, and find God within. Each marker of time has a purpose...but to learn how to find that purpose we have to understand this: **Before you were born again, you set your own seasons, but now we submit our seasons to Him.** As Shakespeare said, 'therein lies the rub' (Hamlet). We want to govern our seasons, but so does God...

And we'll pick it up there next week, until then, blessings!  
John Fenn

## Recognizing God's season in life #2

5/27/2017

Hi all,

I started this series talking about how the Lord moves in seasons while we tend to move in minutes and seconds. But recognizing His seasons in our lives is essential to walking with Him. Those seasons are at His pace, not ours. We must learn to slow down and realize He takes the long view - He has invested in us for eternity, already planning to show us how much He loves us in the ages to come according to Ephesians 2:7 - so we must learn to get our eyes off ourselves and our temporary human frailties and just walk with Him.

We tend to turn inward about how we have failed God, or what sinners we are, or surely God must not like me, and that's just plain wrong. We need to turn to the big picture by getting our eyes off ourselves, stop dividing our thoughts between the present and looking in the rearview mirror of life, and move on...He has!

### **The seasons of your life are no longer yours to control - they belong to Him**

In John 7:4-8 Jesus' unbelieving brothers sarcastically told Him to go up to the feast for if He was from God then the things He was saying and doing should be done in public. Fortunately at least 2 of his brothers, James and Jude, later believed in Jesus and we have the New Testament letters of James and Jude testifying of that. (Matthew 13:55 lists them by name)

But Jesus told them in v6, "My season is not yet, but your season is always ready."

Before we knew the Lord we determined where we would live, where we would work, where we would go to school - our season was always ready, always subject to our slightest mood, whim, or change of plans. We determined the timing of our lives in all things.

Now that we know Him, we submit those seasons of our lives to Him for guidance, input, opinion, and direction. This is where many stumble, being so afraid of missing His perfect will that they won't make a move - paralyzed by fear. But seasons are longer in duration and within each season there is much room for movement and change. Spring can see

everything from snow to warm sunshine - there is great movement within each season - and we shouldn't be afraid of missing it once we identify what season with God we are in, and what His purpose is.

### **God's ability to teach within any season of life is unequalled**

Ecclesiastes 3:1 starts out saying: "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven." Solomon goes on to list some of those times and seasons which include a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to harvest, and many other times and seasons, concluding in v10; "I have seen the travail which God has given to mankind to be trained in it."

This says God has given us these seasons of life to be trained in them. Whatever you are going through, it is for training, the benefits of which may not even be realized in this life, but in the age to come. There is something God can use from what you are going through, even if Satan in the midst of God's season, has done something horrible to you. The larger picture is the Lord is the Master at turning that which the enemy means for our destruction, into something that helps grow us in Christ.

### **That which has past, is now...**

Ecclesiastes 3:14-15 tells us "I know that whatever God does, it will be forever; nothing can be put to it, nor can anything be taken from it, and God does it that men would fear (reverential fear) Him. That which has been is now; and that which will be has already been; and God requires that which is past."

There is a lot in those 2 verses, but know that whatever God is doing in you right now, it is for eternity - it will be forever. How many things in life that you experience or set your hand to do can you say will be forever? Yet what the Lord does in us is forever - so go with the process, learn what you can in this season - it is eternal!

The other thing to see is this fact: That which has been, is now, and whatever will be has already been. God requires that which is past. It means if you don't learn the lesson now, you'll be faced with it on down the road in your future.

I was recently talking to a person contemplating moving to another part of the country for a fresh start, yet I knew the character and maturity issues the Lord was trying to work in them. So I told them they could go to all the expense and effort of moving, but within a short time they would be facing those same issues again - you can't run from God. Bloom where you are planted. Deal with the issue in your heart now, or you will see it again.

Verse 15 says God requires that which is past. It means He requires us to master our past, master the issues in the past - whether that be working through the injustices we've suffered, the mistakes we've made, or blessings we've seen - it means we are expected to learn and grow from what we've experienced!

### **Encouragement**

If you have ever noticed that God tends to make seasonal changes in your life at the same time nature changes seasons, there is a reason for that - He moves in times and seasons and as part of His creation, so do we. So many people had a rough late winter and early spring ranging from the death of loved ones to financial crisis to wondering what is next for them in life.

What I encourage you with is that God moves in seasons, and there is a certain trust in that - that He has the seasons under His control, in His timing, and we are to just learn what we can in these seasons. He is faithful, but the beauty of each season isn't usually seen until near the end of that season. Spring starts off looking like winter, but the full beauty of springtime is seen very close to the end of the season of spring.

Allow each season to come to its fullness. What so many do is see off in the distance the next season, and they want to jump right into that season before experiencing the fullness of the season they are in...just wait...let whatever season you are in fully develop within you - you will know deep within, in your spirit, when the seasons change.

I just wanted to take a couple of weeks to talk about changing seasons to encourage you; whatever you are going through, something can be learned from it, growth and character can be developed within, and a season of rest will come after all that growth and stretching and character building. A quote from Mother Teresa that is appropriate here is this: "I know God won't give me anything I can't handle. I just wish He didn't trust me so much."

And yet something the Lord told me, which is a play on words in English: "I am; I am always present, so you must be in the present to be in my presence."

Be in the present. Be in the moment. See how you can know Him today, now, in this season, in this day...be present with Him right now. Not mentally nor emotionally in the past, nor watching with one fearful eye on the future - but be in the present so you can be in His presence. He is always present, so to walk with Him you too have to be in the present.

That's it...new subject next week...love people, build bridges when they allow you to, and know the beauty of this season will be seen in its fullness...

Blessings,  
John Fenn