

**NAVIGATING SEASONS OF CHANGE**

Scripture: "To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:” Ecclesiastes‬

**Ecclesiastes 3 teaches us several important lessons:**

1. It is our responsibility to *recognize* God’s timing, not to *change* it.
2. It is our responsibility to *accept* and cooperate with God’s timing (as farmers do).
3. Our *alignment* with God’s timing makes a great difference (between success & failure).
4. God has made everything appropriate in its time.
5. God has placed eternity in our hearts, so we must *trust* God to communicate His

 timing (Ecclesiastes 3:11 AMPC) .

Jesus was critical of His generation for their inability to discern the times: Luke 12:54-56

Paul admonishes us to know the times: Romans 13:11-14

David’s Army included the sons of Issachar: 1 Chronicles 12:32

The sons of Issachar were the smallest in number of all the men of war David summoned. But their role was most important. It’s not about numbers but what you know.

The number of men identified from the other tribes were far greater in number, including 120,0000 men from Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh; 50,000 men from Zebulun; 40,000 from Asher; 1000 “captains” and 37,000 men “with shield and spear” from Naphtali; and 28,600 from Dan.

*So, what’s the big deal about only 200 men from Issachar?*:

**ACCURATE RELEVANT INFORMATION**

**First**, the sons of Issachar **“understood the times.”**

This suggests they were discerning.  They did not simply jump to the default conclusions that everyone else did.  They didn’t dabble in unproven conspiracies. They accurately assessed the events around them.  Apparently, while the preponderance of the other men were experts in fighting, the sons of Issachar were able to perceive and detect truths that other men either couldn’t or chose not to see.

The **second** truth we are told about the sons of Issachar is that they had the **“knowledge of what Israel should do.”**

These men were not content simply sitting back, as Monday morning quarterbacks, critiquing the acts or decisions of others.  Rather, the discernment of the sons of Issachar led them to the proper knowledge of what to do.  The truth they understood drove them to take the appropriate steps to address the times within which they lived.  Theirs was a proactive response, based on an accurate assessment.

Are you and I discerning?  We’d all like to say we are, but is our discernment based on a certain ideology, select media, underlying assumptions, or even our own bias?

It’s highly possible some of these variables influence us to “discern” inaccurately.  Why? Because they can all be subjective, approaching these times of crisis with a predisposition to arrive at our own preferred conclusions. However, there is one objective truth.  This truth can help us accurately discern what is going on in our world today.  The objective truth is **God’s Word**.

Jesus said this about the Bible:

**“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”**Matthew 24:35

We also know this about the Word of God:

**“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so the servant of God can be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”** 2 Timothy 3:16-17

We can also know this because God promises it:

**“Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.”**Psalm 119:105

This verse promises to show us not only what is up close, but also how to navigate the path as it extends further out beyond our sight and understanding.

That discernment will help us to know how to respond to the “here and now”, as well as what is “coming down the road”.  Is this because we are supernatural?  No, but God’s Word is, and that is the faithful source of our discernment.

**YOU CAN HAVE ABILITY TO DISCERN THE TIMES:**

Recognize that God is no respecter of persons. Romans 2:11, Acts.10:34.

* If God gave sons of Issachar a special ability, He is willing to give you and I the same.
* Know that, in Christ Jesus, all the blessings God gave Abraham and his descendants also belong to you. Galatians 3:19, Galatians 3:13-14.
* Since we are adopted into God’s family through Christ, we are entitled to all the blessings of Abraham.

Go ahead and just ask God for the anointing of the tribe of Issachar - all we must do is ask!

After you ask, start paying attention.

-When you “feel” something is about to happen

-When you feel reluctant to make a certain decision just yet because you feel it isn’t quite time

-When you feel like you shouldn’t take on anything new right now, because you feel like a new door is about to open

-When God leads you to stand for something or someone that is Biblically supported, but isn’t popular

**THAT IS THE ANOINTING OF THE SONS OF ISSACHAR AT WORK IN YOU!**