

## Topical

# Seasons

### Favorite season?

Growing up, winter

Then, probably early-mid fall, late summer

Spring, early summer

### Location affects season

Montana vs. Florida

Mountains vs. valleys

### Other definitions

- *a period of the year characterized by a particular climatic feature or marked by a particular activity, event, or festivity.*
- *"the rainy season"*
- *the time of year when a particular fruit, vegetable, or other food is plentiful and in good condition.*
- *a proper or suitable time.*
- *an indefinite or unspecified period of time; a while.*
- *a set or sequence of related television programs.*
- *add salt, herbs, pepper, or other spices to (food).*
- *add a quality or feature to (something), especially so as to make it more lively or exciting.*
- *make (wood) suitable for use as timber by adjusting its moisture content to that of the environment in which it will be used.*

*Could probably make a sermon from any one of these secular definitions*

### Seasoning on food

Too much season(ing) will ruin the food. Just enough brings the flavor out.

*Electric salt spoon...*

**Seasoning can make you bitter, savory or sweet - or disgusting.**

### Matthew 5:13

**"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.**

## Turn to Genesis 1:1-19

**V14**

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and **let them be for signs and seasons**, and for days and years;

ot

- Signal
- Distinguishing mark
- Banner
- Remembrance
- Miraculous sign
- Omen
- Warning
- proof

Mo'wed

- appointed place, appointed time, meeting
- appointed time
- appointed time (general)
- sacred season, set feast, appointed season
- appointed meeting
- appointed place
- appointed sign or signal
- tent of meeting

*Adam and God had a time...walked in the garden in the evening*

**We love appointed times**

**TGIF**

**We still use them today, calendars, yearly feasts, and you'd better not be using the horoscope**

But the point is still there. people pay attention to the sky and for all of human history we've used them to track dates, harvests, events and more

**Can we track the times in our lives?**

Not to the stars in heaven, but perhaps shining or dark moments in our lives?

**Psalm 90:12**

**So teach [us] to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.**

**God wants us to number our days.**

We need to be cognisant of how much time we have on earth (presumably)

### **Psalm 90:10**

**The days of our lives [are] seventy years; And if by reason of strength [they are] eighty years, Yet their boast [is] only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.**

### **It's wise to take account of our lives**

#### **We talk of the mid-life crisis**

But in a sense, I think it's a God-ordained thing. A pricking of the conscience at mid-life, trying to wake us up to reality of not that much time left

**80 years = 29,200 days = 700,800 hours**

**35 this year = 12,775 days = 43.75% of my life...gone over bye bye**

**44 this year = 16,060 days (+3, 285) = 55%**

**I think it's super healthy to let those mid-life, maybe quarter life, maybe  $\frac{3}{4}$  life, maybe weekly crisis come, that we might gain a heart of wisdom**

Now, do we dwell in them? No. Should we salve them with a sports car, or vacation, or new haircut or outfit from a section of the store that certainly was meant for the generation previous? No.

**We need to seek for God's wisdom in how to handle our failures, our successes, and ultimately what God has next for us - in whatever season that is**

**Philippians 3:13-14 NKJV - Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**

### **2 Timothy 4:2**

**Preach the word! Be ready in season [and] out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.**

**Our conscience, pricked by God and the word, should not be ignored, especially when time is short**

*Timeouts at the end of a game, or half-time/between periods, analyzing your plays, strategies with time left*

*Timeouts in axis and allies*

**All to determine the best course of action**

Maybe your budget, we have \$X left until payday, how do we get there?

**To keep on going on like you've been going**

**Playing like you've been playing**

**Spending like you've been spending**

**Living like you've been living**

**And expect to win when the results so far aren't a win? That's foolishness in any activity, but especially our spiritual lives**

**God wants us to reach heaven, bring others, and arrive with as much return on investment as possible.**

**Psalm 58:11**

**So that men will say, "Surely [there is] a reward for the righteous; Surely He is God who judges in the earth."**

**God says there IS a reward for the righteous**

**For homework read Psalm 73:1-19**

*(excerpts) But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped.*

*For I [was] envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.*

*For [there are] no pangs in their death, But their strength [is] firm.*

*They [are] not in trouble [as other] men, Nor are they plagued like [other] men.*

*Surely I have cleansed my heart [in] vain, And washed my hands in innocence.*

*For all day long I have been plagued, And chastened every morning.*

*When I thought [how] to understand this, It [was] too painful for me--*

*Until I went into the sanctuary of God; [Then] I understood their end.*

*Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction.*

**There is an end to the wicked. If our lives aren't successful by wicked standards, but are by righteous standards, hold on. Their end is coming, and it is destruction. Your end is coming, and it is a reward.**

**Slippery places.**

**God might have you in a hard season because he doesn't want you in a slippery place.**

**Moses, the Prophets, David**

It seems most, if not all, of the people God used in the Bible as our examples, as his followers, servants, close friends - all went through drastic seasons. The Lord himself even.

**The life of Joseph Full of seasons**

Favored son, coat, hated by brothers, sold into slavery, finds favor, works for Potiphar, falsely accused, forgotten again in prison, interprets Pharaoh's dream by God's insight, second in command of all of Egypt...all to save his family and Israel

**That's a lot of hard seasons.**

Good season, bad season, worse season, good season, better season, horrible season, worse season, best season yet, even better season (reunited), family saved, nation saved

**But he wasn't bitter. He wasn't hardened.  
He was right where God wanted him to be.**

**Genesis 50:18-21**

Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we [are] your servants."

Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for [am] I in the place of God?

"But as for you, you meant evil against me; [but] God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as [it is] this day, to save many people alive.

"Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

**Joseph knew his place and he knew God's place...heaven. Above all. Perfect wisdom.**

**Isaiah 55:8-9**

"For My thoughts [are] not your thoughts, Nor [are] your ways My ways," says the LORD.

"For [as] the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

**God knows best, invented times and seasons, who are we to judge?**

Kids think they know better, sometimes they do, but experience of parents can bring a lot to the table. I've been through a lot - as I'm sure we all have - and i want my kids to learn from what I've gone through - good and bad - so that they get the seasoning now, that they don't have to get it the hard way.

**Daniel 2:20-22**

Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what [is] in the darkness, And light dwells with Him.

**God knows best and he's able to change seasons on earth for us -**

Way more than El Nino/La Nina!

**There are seasons for nations. Seasons for rulership.**

Election year, talk of politics, past presidents, administrations

**We talk of decades, cultural seasons** - everything comes back into fashion eventually (boy, I hope not)

**Ecclesiastes 7:10**

Do not say, "Why were the former days better than these?" For you do not inquire wisely concerning this.

(although the 90s were better and so were the 50s)

**Many times, during seasons, we look to past seasons and wish we were there instead**

(or wish we could go forward to them)

*When it's 2 degrees out in the winter and you wish for summer or think of winter when it's 102 degrees out*

**The enemy loves to give us rose colored glasses**

Old relationships, habits, friends, situations - all can look good - but they're over for a reason, some for good reason

**Come to grips when good seasons are over**

Maybe losing a loved one, a happy season, a season without struggle

**But the reality is, that they aren't better -****Ecc 11:10**

Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, And put away evil from your flesh, For childhood and youth [are] vanity.

Youth and childhood can be a great season - a lot of fun, not a lot of responsibility (hopefully to both) - I think of people like my dad who has been working full time since before age 11, probably even earlier, to make ends meet with his family, pay his way through college, etc.

### **But in reality, we should be continually growing up -**

We need to be doing so as well, emotionally, physically, but most importantly, spiritually

### **Looking back is what turned Lot's wife to a pillar of salt - way over seasoned to the point of death**

Holding on to the past won't change the present for the better, it will make it worse

Imagine holding on to last winter as the summer comes - you'll die of heat stroke with all of your winter clothes on at the beach. Or holding on to your flip flops and shorts when next winter comes - you'll freeze!

Looking back, dwelling on the past, not only hurts us more because we can't go back, but it begins to destroy our present and future

### **Reminiscing can be good, remaining is bad.**

#### **1 Cor 13:11-12**

When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

#### **There comes a time to put away the past.**

I remember this verse for video games years ago, giving away my videogames. It was time to do other things.

Maybe it's not videogames for you, or me now either, but it's something.

#### **What about hard times? Dry times?**

famine/govt induced? In Venezuela

Fleeing, rioting, government fist

Spiritually, we need to look to God and remember what he's instructed us in the past

**Psalm 16:7, 10 NKJV** - I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel; My heart also instructs me in the night seasons. ... For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

### **When it's dark, we need to turn on the light**

My kids love my flashlights

Nightlights

### **When it's dark, we need to focus on whatever light we have available Remember what God told you when it was light**

Old verses, messages, scriptures, insights...write them down

Drawer full of old journals

### **A lot of times God will give you a heads-up, a weather report, for the coming season - way better than Farmer's almanac!**

God spoke to us about things before coming down here about things that we've seen happen, come true, and it's been hard - not you guys, but around us

If he hadn't, or we hadn't been listening, things would be a lot different

### **Sometimes it's hard to hear God, or perhaps he's being quiet on purpose.**

A lot of times, when i struggle, or want to go a different direction, or want to bail, have a pity party, whatever, God will use verses he's given me, spoken to me, or I've just read in the past that will float up in my heart and instruct me

Isaiah 30:21 NKJV - Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This [is] the way, walk in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.

### **We need the light of the scripture to cut through the darkness.**

#### **Homework: Ecclesiastes 3 (1-17)**

There is a time and a season for everything

Moving - *i don't know if I can even count how many times I've moved in life. - at least 15 (more if you count several moves in brief history of college, between places in NY, between places coming down here)*

Being single

Being married

Having kids

Different groups of friends growing up  
 Different schools  
 Different groups of friends  
 People moving away  
 Different jobs  
 Different interests  
 Different numbers of kids!

### **2 Cor 6:2 (quoting Isaiah 49)**

For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now [is] the accepted time; behold, now [is] the day of salvation.

**Whatever season you are in, God wants you to turn to him. To call on him.** He made the seasons. He allows the seasons, the storms, the day and the night...but we can't navigate them alone, we're not supposed to. Today is the day of salvation - no matter the season. \*people sometimes wait for the bad

### **Phil 4:11-13**

Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

**In need...**the key is that God will strengthen you for any season, no matter what it takes, he will get you through.

Just like the seasons around us, we can't escape them (even if you move to Florida or California)

### **look forward to and be prepared for the eternal season in Heaven**

This season is just a few decades and it'll be over  
 And then eternity. One glorious season - forever.