

*In Due Season*

*You Will Know Why*

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*All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.*

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## INTRODUCTION

“Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble?” (Psalm 10:1).

All of us at one time or another have asked, “Why?”—especially when we have seen things happen in our own lives or in the lives of loved ones. The psalmist’s first word in Psalm 10 was “why.” Often we ask because of our limited human understanding.

But God knows the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10). He wants the very best for our lives, and He has a perfect plan to bring it to pass. Therefore, we may not always understand why until God has worked some things into our lives over time. In some cases, we will not know the answer to our “whys” until we get to heaven.

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for *in due season*, we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of

the household of faith” (Galatians 6:9-10).

This booklet teaches how we can trust God when we don’t know why. We need only know and believe that “all things are for [our] sakes” (2 Corinthians 4:15) and that when it is time, we will know why.

*Chapter One*  
**GOD'S PLAN IS PERFECT**

“By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt...” (Hebrews 11:24-26a).

Many years after the death of Joseph (who found great favor with the ruler of Egypt for his people), Israel came under the rule of an evil Egyptian king who “knew not Joseph” (Exodus 1:8). To him, the people of Israel represented an ever increasing threat. So the king, bearing the royal Egyptian title of Pharaoh, commanded all male Hebrew babies to be cast into the Nile River in an effort to stop the children of Israel from multiplying. When Moses was born, his mother was able to hide him for three months. Then, fearing he would be discovered, she put

him in a tiny ark and hid him in the tall weeds by the river's edge.

Soon after, the daughter of Pharaoh went down to the river to wash herself and found the infant Moses, whom she recognized as one of the Hebrew children. Moses' sister, watching nearby, offered to find a Hebrew nurse to care for him. Pharaoh's daughter agreed, and the girl took her brother to his own mother, who was hired to nurse him.

When the baby was weaned, his mother brought him back to Pharaoh's daughter who raised Moses as her own son. He was given the best education of that time in Egyptian schools (see Acts 7:22). Historic references reveal that Moses became one of the greatest military leaders in the history of the Egyptian army. He had amazing ability not only because he was brilliant, but also because he had the best opportunities available to him.

One day while Moses was looking upon the burden of his brethren toiling in a field, he saw an Egyptian soldier beating one of the Hebrew slaves. In a moment of anger Moses killed the Egyptian, hid the body in the sand, and fled for his life. For the next forty years Moses lived in the desert in the land of Midian, fearing Pharaoh

and knowing that his own people had lost respect for him (see Exodus 2:11-22).

During all those years, behind the scenes and away from his loved ones in Egypt, Moses would walk through the desert. At night he gazed at the stars. He went by the bitter waters of Marah. He walked to Mount Sinai. He knew every corner of that wilderness: where the most dangerous areas were, where the venomous reptiles were. Because of his intelligence and his keen sense of investigation, he learned everything that was possible to discover about that harsh terrain.

But by his own convictions, he also believed that his life was over—that whatever he might have been able to accomplish for his people would now be impossible. And undoubtedly, many, many times Moses asked, “Why?”

### *A Perfect Plan for Imperfect People*

The Word of God says in Psalm 18:30 that *God’s way is perfect*. This means that *God’s plan is perfect*. Deuteronomy 32:4 tells us that *God does all things perfectly*, and 2 Corinthians 4:15 says that *all things are for our sakes*, “that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.” Romans 8:28 de-

clares that “*All things work together for good* to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose,” that we might be conformed to the image of the Son (Romans 8:29).

Yet in spite of all that we know, broken hearts are hidden behind many of the faces we see every day. As the psalmist did in Psalm 10:1, there are certain times and situations when each of us will ask God “Why?” And the Bible says that in due season, God will tell us why.

Little did Moses know what God had in store for him at the end of the forty years in the desert. Forty years is a long time. I’ve preached the Word of God for forty-six years. But Moses, who would live to be one hundred twenty years old, was still middle-aged at eighty! And, as Exodus 3 reveals, God *still* had a plan for him.

### *In Time, God Speaks*

“Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.

“And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

“And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I” (Exodus 3:1-4).

Think of it. A worthless bush was not consumed by the fire of God’s presence. What was the message? The Lord was saying that Israel, despite her rebellion, would not be consumed by her enemies. “Moses, now you know why I chose *you* to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. I have spent forty years training you in this wilderness. You know where all the water is. You know where the serpents are. You know every nook and cranny. Moses, I have personally trained you to lead My people out. *Now* you know the answer to your ‘why’.”

God always has a perfect plan that He performs with imperfect people. We make imperfect decisions, and God does not interfere. Yet somehow He makes something good out of it, all through His providential grace, love, and mercy. Time and time again, He allows things to happen. Sometimes it takes forty years. Sometimes it takes a lifetime. But guaranteed, *in due season* God *will* reveal why.

*Chapter Two*  
**FOR THOSE WHO ASK WHY**

I was only three when my father died. I don't know why that had to happen, but in due season I will know. Our house had a slanted floor and was heated by an old wood stove. We didn't own a washing machine, or even a refrigerator. We used kerosene lamps for light, and my mother used an old washboard for the laundry. Every day she worked from four-thirty in the morning to midnight to earn a meager living while raising seven children. I'm sure there were times when she silently asked, "Why?" Her hands crippled with arthritis and her back bent down, not knowing the answer, she still revealed Jesus Christ to us. And now in heaven—in her due season—she knows why.

I often think of the precious people in our church who are deaf. They have never heard anyone verbally say, "I love you." They have never heard a song. But they don't want self-

pity. They are beautiful people living abundant lives with Jesus Christ. Still I am sure that many have asked God “Why?”

Then I think of those who are blind, who have never seen the smile of a baby or the faces of loved ones. They have never seen a sunrise, a sunset, the glistening of a mountain stream, or the moon and the stars at night. I’m sure they have asked “Why?” But the comfort they have is that *in due season*, they will know why.

I’m sure people who have been confined to wheelchairs have said, “Why am I in a wheelchair? Why is it that others walk, and I will never walk again?” I don’t have the answer, but this I know: In due season, they will know why.

### *First in Heaven*

“And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last” (Luke 13:30). God’s plan is perfect. His provision is perfect. People who go through certain trials and undeserved suffering will be first in heaven (if they are saved), and in due season, God will show them why.

Throughout my many years of pastoring, I have seen so many situations where parents have asked God “Why?” when their child was

born mentally retarded. I remember a little boy whose brain did not receive enough oxygen at birth. Though he was a precious child, he would never have the same abilities as other people. Growing up, he was loved by all of us, yet I'm sure his parents asked God many times, "Why?" In due season they will know. Maybe it won't be in this lifetime, but in heaven, they *will* find out why.

Then there are those who are diagnosed with cancer. And whether the person is young or middle aged, it is always difficult to hear the news. "Why do I have cancer?" they often say.

Many years ago, a pastor who is a cousin and a dear friend of mine lost four of his children in a terrible fire that destroyed his home. Why would God allow that to happen? I do not know why, but I know the One who knows why. I know that His plan is perfect, and in due season, God will reveal why it happened.

### *When God Finally Begins to Reveal Why*

Whatever our situation or trial may be, we must realize that God has a due season when He will reveal why. He has a perfect plan. In that perfect plan is a perfect provision. God is a perfect God doing a perfect thing, and if it is not re-

vealed down here, in heaven it will be.

Thank God that Moses finally understood “why” as he led the children of Israel out of Egypt and through the wilderness for forty more years.

There are probably many reasons why I was reared up in a small town, in a poor family, but one of the reasons why is before my eyes today: It was so I could co-labor with the people in my ministry to win thousands of souls all over the world. But in order for God to bring me to this place, I had to taste the humility of having nothing yet always having the tender love of my mother and family. I had to taste the bankruptcy of not always having everything we needed materially, at the same time I knew the love that comes from an eternal value system.

In due season, I have discovered why. It took those things to produce in me a brokenness and an anointing to preach the Word of God. Why? God knows why, and that’s good enough for me.

### *The “Whys” for Suffering*

Asaph, the writer of Psalm 73, wondered why the wicked and ungodly in the world were prospering while he was being persecuted. But as he went into the sanctuary to worship God,

he finally understood their end: The wicked eventually go into hell and perish (see Psalm 73:16-19).

Some of you were abused or molested as children. *Why?* God certainly didn't want it to happen; it wasn't His will. But God does not take away free volition. Because He will not violate a person's free will, God could not stop it from happening. But with all you have gone through, many of you have become broken vessels who love God. Now, because of the Finished Work, the effects of the abuse are gone forever, and now you can know you are as pure as anyone can be, as righteous as Jesus Christ, and no longer a victim of abuse. Yours is a vessel of honor and purity, as much as any virgin in the world would have. The shed blood of Jesus Christ made it possible. The grace of God did it; the love of God did it. And according to Hebrews 10:10 and 14, it was done forever. You have been made perfect in your position in Christ.

Often, I hear people ask, "How about my marriage? Why is my home shipwrecked?" I don't know why. The thing for these people to do in the meantime is to act like men and women of God. They need to act like vessels of honor and meekness, yoked to Jesus Christ.

If Christ is all and in all, then He is *enough* for you. You don't need Jesus Christ's omnipotence *plus* something else. You don't need His omniscience plus something else. You don't need His magnificent omnipresence plus something else. If He does not give you something else or change your situation, then in due season, you will know why! In the meantime, continue in well doing. Do not get weary or familiar in doing what is right. Do not faint.

### *Chapter Three*

## CONTINUE IN WELL DOING

Until we find out why, we must continue in well doing. The Word of God tells us to keep on going forward and not to be weary in well doing (Galatians 6:9). Do not be weary in the opportunities you have to love people, especially within the Body of Christ. Don't be one who withdraws, living independent of the Body. Draw near and God will answer your "why" in due season.

Keep right on soul winning. Keep right on working with the children in the inner city. Keep right on teaching Christian education on Sundays. Keep right on serving God in the business world with all your heart, and don't become weary while you're doing it. Don't become familiar. Keep right on being faithful to church services on Wednesday nights, Sunday mornings, and Sunday nights. *For in due season, you shall know why.*

If you are in Bible college, study hard. Do not become weary in studying. Go back for the next semester. Do not get weary in well doing. Work hard, save your money, pay your bills, and finish your course. Two or three years of Bible college may not be enough. There are people who come to our college for a semester or two and then they want to go out on the foreign mission field. Yet Moses was in training for *forty years!*

You need preparation—not only in the classroom, but you need the anointing day in and day out until it gets into your soul. You need the exchange that takes place in fellowship. You need the fullness of being with the Body of Christ. The first century believers in the book of Acts met twice a day, every day for three years in Ephesus. You need a Book-of-Acts church that doesn't reduce its ministry to two or three dimensions but teaches the whole counsel of God. And if you get into that kind of a church, you will be mightily used of God—*in due season*.

### *Don't Accept Weariness*

I refuse to accept getting weary. I will not accept fainting—never have and I never will. I will not settle for being negative. I have learned

never to be negative in any of my trials, and I don't plan to be negative in the future. It is no problem for me to be positive, creative, loving, and kind because Jesus Christ is that way. Through my trials, I have learned that my flesh could not do a thing. Jesus Christ did it all, and I have always discovered why in due season.

I am not going to be a part of raising up Christians who are spiritually weak, who are more concerned with their problems than they are with their provision, more concerned with their flesh than they are with Christ's life, more concerned with their difficulties than with God's love, and with their perplexities than with God's ability to deliver them. I don't want a Sunday morning service where everything is staged well and done according to the letter, yet lacks the anointing of the Holy Spirit. That is called a Laodicean church. It is not cold, but it is not hot. They may preach the Gospel, but when rewards are given at the Bema Seat, they will suffer loss of rewards even if they are saved.

If we do well with Jesus Christ through His Holy Spirit and if we sow with the Word to the Spirit (not out of duty), we shall of the Holy Spirit reap everlasting life as we go through trials. God has given me this conviction, and it is

biblical. But if we sow to the flesh, we shall of the flesh reap corruption. (See Galatians 6:7-8.)

### *A Due Season for the Disobedient*

There is a due season for another group of people. In due season, the people who will not repent of immorality, pornography, homosexuality, lesbianism, drug addiction, and alcoholism will find out that the Word of God is true when it says that people who do these things will not go to heaven. Those, however, who are saved will be chastised with the sin unto physical death if they continue.

In due season, the proud who look at others with daggers of criticism and the humanistic liberals who, because of their atheism, will not give God an opportunity—they all will find out that the Word of God is true. Unbelievers will discover that hell is a real place, that judgment is real, and that death is coming upon them. In due season, as they reject the grace of God, they will find out that it is *all* true, every single word.

If you want to live in sin, then be sure your sin will find you out (Numbers 32:23b).<sup>\*</sup> In due season, you will find out that you can't get away with committing a homosexual act once every six months and trying to justify it because you

have a weakness. You won't get away with an occasional bout of immorality, or secretly getting drunk in your home. You won't get away with going downtown to solicit a prostitute. You won't get away with it. Be sure your sin will find you out! In due season, it will be revealed.

### *The Importance of a Positive Confession*

Don't confess that your life is miserable. Recounting your misery only reveals that you don't understand where you are or Who is in you. You are hid with Christ in God. You are seated in heavenly places. The Father is in you. The Son is in you. The Holy Spirit is in you. He is not just an impersonal "thing." *God* is in you. The Word of God is in you. The Gospel is in you. God's plan and purpose are in you. Purity is in you. Just release what is already in you and walk by faith through life's situations. Stop confessing, "Everything bad happens to me!" So what if it has! Jesus Christ was a man of sorrows. He was rejected, hated, and crucified. Are you better than He was?

We are blessed just to breathe God's air. So stop going around magnifying the details of your life, for in due season if you keep sowing to your flesh, you will of your own flesh reap

corruption.

A man left his wife eight years ago. This woman is raising three children, and she hasn't heard from him since the day he left. I'm sure it has been a devastating thing for her to go through. But she told me this:

“Jesus Christ and this Body of believers have given me the fullness of joy. I thank you every day of my life after I thank God. I don't go to bed sad. I don't even ask why. I am fulfilled. My husband has a free will. He wanted to leave and he left. But I am happy, and my children are doing well in Christian school. God gave me a provision, I'm sowing to the Spirit, and I continue in well doing with Jesus Christ. And I am not weary!”

In due season, God will reveal why. Meanwhile, this woman is provided for by God. When He does reveal what He was doing through it all, we will be filled with thanksgiving and overwhelmed by the glory of His wisdom and purpose. We will see that God knew just what He wanted to do all along. And we will see that in truth, it was all for our sake.

A positive confession of faith reinforces the trust we have in God's divine ability to work all things together in a plan of divine good. It is not

wrong to wonder why, but we must learn not to live in fear, doubt, or discontentment while we wait for the time when God will reveal the answer.

*\*Read The Great Detective: Sin, by Pastor Stevens, Grace Publications, 1998.*

## CONCLUSION

After many years, Moses was in the desert again, this time leading the children of Israel toward the promised land. The people needed water and complained to Moses. God instructed Moses to *speak* to the rock, before the eyes of the congregation, and the rock would give forth water. But Moses, in a moment of anger, made a mistake. According to Numbers 20:11, instead of speaking to the rock, he became angry and *smote* the rock—not once, but twice. Because he did not sanctify the Lord in the eyes of the children of Israel, Moses would not go with them into Canaan.

Well, we know what Numbers 20:1-12 says. Still, Moses was “good” for *forty* years, and God is a good God. This portion of Scripture goes far beyond what meets the eye. In Deuteronomy 34, Moses, nearing the end of his life, was on Mount Nebo looking into the promised land. In so many words God said, “I will not let you go into

the land to drive out the Canaanites, Moses. I know you would win, but there will still be problems and many battles to fight. At least you can see into the land. But I'm going to take you home to be with Me. And that is far better than going into Canaan."

Even though he was rebuked, I don't believe Moses was being chastised when God kept him from going into the promised land of Canaan. Instead, he got something far better—he was taken directly to heaven, with no enemies to conquer or drive out. In the end, Moses knew why.

*Dear heavenly Father, help us always to go beyond the immediate situation with all of its questions and fears. Help us to seek Your face during the trials we go through. Your faithfulness reaches to the heavens and your mercy endures to all generations. Our desire is to be in the center of Your will, where You are the answer to "Why." In Jesus' name, Amen.*