

A MESSAGE TO THE EVEDIM HAYEHOVAH

מַסֵּר לַעֲבָדִים הַיְהוּוֹה

THE servants of the Lord

By Betty Hall



**A MESSAGE TO THE
EVEDIM HAYEHOVAH
THE SERVANTS OF THE LORD**

מִסֵּר לְעֲבָדֵי הַיהוָה

First the Bear, then the Bull

Updated 2022

By Betty Hall

To everything there is a season,
a time for every purpose under heaven:
A time to be born, and a time to die;
A time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted;
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
A time to break down, and a time to build up;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn, and a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones,
and a time to gather stones;
A time to embrace,
and a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to gain, and a time to lose;
A time to keep, and a time to throw away;
A time to tear, and a time to sew;
A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
A time to love, and a time to hate;
A time of war, and a time of peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 NKJV

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the bondservants of the Lord
First the Bear, then the Bull,
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A NEW DISPENSATION IS COMING

God's End Times Army

God has a unique plan and destiny for every individual. Destiny fulfilled is God's desire for every human being. Everyone's destiny is vital. No-one's destiny is to be viewed as less than or greater than anyone else's. There is no hierarchy or competition in the kingdom of God. Not everyone is called to the same thing. Yet we are all called to walk by the Spirit and extend the love of God to the world around us in the manner and expression for which God has uniquely fashioned us. There is no other you. No one else can be you. Only you can be you.

End Times Bondservants

The days of arguing over whether the gifts of the Spirit are for today should be behind us. If we are to succeed in our divine destiny we have to embrace and walk in greater maturity. Our pet peeves and pet doctrinal agendas must be set aside in order to step into our divinely appointed position of being seated with Christ in heavenly places. There is something far more crucial than being angry that some believe in tongues while others don't. The organized church has been focused far too long on personal earthly/fleshly agenda rather than one based on heaven's agenda.

There is, however, a growing number who realize that these petty debates are a waste of valuable time and attention. They are casting off everything which might distract and deter from fulfilling the call of God. Those running into the arms of the Lord are finding themselves running out of organized religion. A remnant of the body of Christ is pursuing God rather than church. For a long time now, God has been calling His children to work *with* Him not *for* Him. He has been challenging us to radical obedience and consecrated living which is foreign to many church goers. God has sounded a clarion call to those who have the heart of a bondservant (eved) . Those with ears to hear what the Spirit is saying, are responding to that call.

An Exciting Transition

We are living in the midst of an exciting transition in the body of Christ. There is much happening in the realm of the Spirit as preparation for a coming move of God in the earth. A great shuffle is going on. God is strategically moving people into positions which will launch them into the destiny role for which He has prepared them. The body of Christ is pregnant

with a multitude of these End Times bondservants. Like race horses at the gate, these warrior lovers of God are poised. Their ears strain to hear the bell sound and the gate to fling open.

Full from the deposit of God, downloaded in this past season they are gearing up for the most incredible and awe inspiring work of God to be seen on the planet. The air is charged with a mixture of excitement and fear. The rush from the Spirit of God is intoxicating. We don't just have front row seats to the End Times PreGame events; we are participants.

The undertaking of preparing God's End Times army is underway. This enormous enterprise involves a massive amount of people encompassing a wide range of cultures, ethnicities, affiliations, backgrounds and generations. This chosen company of people are a part of the End Times strategy to shift God's people out of man's traditional version of church and into the living manifestation of the kingdom God.

God is releasing His End Times agenda. Prophets, pastors and ministers are pivoting to go forward in an entirely new direction. The Spirit is calling. The saints are responding. We are abandoning religious structure and traditions of men. God is calling His bondservants to radical obedience. Vast amounts of people have been getting repositioned and realigned in recent years. We are not merely shifting from one denomination to another. We are casting off the constraints of dead religion. Rather than pew sitting or conforming to the dictates of organized religion, we are embracing the freedom to walk with God as the Spirit directs. They are devoted lovers of God. We are the modern day bondservants of the Lord. (Evedim Yehovah) It is to *this* End Times company of bondservants (evedim) that this message is addressed.

Getting Ready

In more prior season, this company of people, have received unfathomable words from the Lord, pertaining to the destiny of God upon their individual lives. These fantastical ideas not only pertain to specific ministries of healing and power, but other equally amazing and mind-blowing ideas. The notion of which is unlike anything most church goers would hear preached on a typical Sunday morning. It is beyond comprehension. Yet it is happening. It is happening in our generation. Not only are these words extraordinary, the manner in which they are being received from God is equally amazing. More and more people are testifying to have had angelic encounters. It seems this is a growing occurrence. I'm hearing more testimonies in this past decade, than I have in the past fifty years combined.

Things are being set up for the most awesome move of the Spirit since the day of Pentecost. In order to usher in the Second Coming a new dispensation of the Spirit is going to be released. This new dispensation of grace will be more powerful than the empowerment which launched the church at Pentecost. I whole heartedly believe that a release of this new dispensation of the Spirit is beginning now and will culminate with the second coming of Messiah.

Heaven's agents, the angels of the Lord, are ushering in this new dispensation. Through experiences once thought to be relegated to the millennium the bondservants are being equipped with a new commission and fresh impartation of the Spirit of the Living God. It's as if it's a whole new baptism of the Holy Spirit. I know that might challenge our theology. I know what it sounds like. However, I am completely convinced of the work Holy Spirit has been doing, and the word I have received.

God is equipping people and preparing the earth for the ultimate event, the Lord's return. There is a great work in that is yet to be done before that Great Day. What we are seeing is the restoration and rebuilding of the fallen Tabernacle of David. In unprecedented ways, the saints of God are being equipped for the rolling out of this new dispensation. This new dispensation is a vital necessity for the overcoming bride. I think we can agree on the fact that the church is not ready. We need to be made ready before the great and terrible day of the Lord. (Joel 2:31)

There is a vast difference between religious church goers and the surrendered life of the eved, the bondservant of the Lord. The bondservant (eved) has his/her ear tuned to hear the voice of Holy Spirit. The bondservant (eved) comes before the Lord with a surrendered life, a life marked with obedience. The heart of the eved is "not my will, but Your will be done; on earth as it is in heaven." The bondservant is not interested in building a legacy or seeking a platform. The eved doesn't count followers. The bondservant is only interested in seeing the manifestation of the kingdom of God in the earth. He/She isn't building their kingdom. They are following the leading of Holy Spirit. They are taking up their divinely appointed position. They are fulfilling the mandate established by God. They will put their hand only to the work to which they have been called. They will not deter. They will not be denied. These are those who will be the recipients of this new dispensation of grace.

PREPARATION

A Trumpet Call

Minimally for the last two decades people have been receiving words of unprecedented prophetic destiny in amazing and incredible ways. Many, not a few, have received prophetic vision, dreams, spiritual encounters and even taken into spiritual realms. Some have been taken into heaven itself as a means of instilling the destiny and commissioning of God upon their lives. It's enough to make you giddy. It's as if the body of Christ has goosebumps. It's exciting and exhilarating. This massive equipping and commissioning of the saints is not to be viewed lightly. This is real. This is God's End Times strategy being put into place. Skeptics may ponder the validity. Some may question the means through which these commissions have been received. Cynics may think people are just full of themselves and thinking more highly of themselves than they ought. Despite opposing views, angelic visitations, being taken into spiritual dimensions, as well as having open visions are happening to many across the body of Christ. These amazing spiritual experiences once thought to be reserved for when we get to heaven are being accessed now.

The trumpet call has gone out to the body of Christ. This new dispensation will continue and increase until the Lord's return. I believe with each successive generation we will see greater numbers responding to the call. Those who have ears to hear will receive their End Times commissioning. Ultimately, the purpose of this commissioning is to prepare God's people for the Lord's return. This isn't a doom and gloom message. This isn't about being left behind. It's about being included in the End Times strategy of heaven to prepare the Bride of Christ for the Lord's return and the equipping necessary to fulfill that destiny.

The prophetic word contained in this booklet is intended to inspire endurance and a resolute spirit to finish the race and receive the prize. This race ahead is not a sprint. It's a marathon. And it is going to take a marathon mentality to finish.

Some Confusion Over Circumstances

Although God has been imparting amazing promises and incredible words of destiny this company of bondservants find themselves in increasingly confusing circumstances. Many of the situations in which people are finding themselves seems opposite to what the Lord has ultimately called them. Like

.....
"It's just as important to remember that each footstrike carries you forward, not backward. And every time you put on your running shoes you are different in come away than you were the day before. This is all good news."
—John Bingham, American marathon runner
.....

Hannah Hurnard's heroine in *Hind's Feet on High Places*, they find themselves on a path that surely seems to lead away from the promise rather than toward it. There is another preparatory step which must take place in order to be launched into the destiny for which we are called. The step that follows the spiritual impartation of commissioning includes great testing. It is an absolutely critical step. If God's promised destiny is released in an individual before they are tested and proven, the devourer will consume it and all would be lost. In order to ensure that doesn't happen the devourer must first be dealt with in each individual life. That removal is what the next step is all about.

The Next Step

God has made amazing promises to His people. Whether or not God's people come fully into that promise is conditional on whether or not they trust God fully to bring them into it. In order to come into the promise they will have to leave the place of comfort and familiarity. There are many things they will have to let go of in order to embrace the new land which they are called to possess. This company of bondservants will be required to endure a thorough process of purging and overcoming before stepping into that for which they have been called.

Some who have been given incredible promises by God have had great difficulty accepting the changes required to step into those promises. We cannot afford to be like the Israelites who came into agreement with the inhabitants of the land rather than remove them as the Lord instructed. Allowing those forces to remain, ultimately disempower the people of God. They lost the glory of God as a result of compromising with the god of this world. The pagan (worldly) influences devoured the anointing and caused the people of God to forfeit their calling as carriers of the glory of God. If we are to carry to completion our calling we will have to be uncompromising when it comes to protecting the glory of the Lord, in our personal life.

Spy out the Land

The next step in this End Times preparation of the bondservant of the Lord is a season of testing and refining. This step *must* be taken in order to be released into our God ordained destiny. It cannot be avoided. Just as the children of Israel had to conquer the inhabitants in order to take possession of the promise there is something required of us. The season ahead will be one of great testing and refinement. Those who have been prepared and equipped to enter this season are those who have received a God ordained message of destiny. They must not only have faith to *see* the fruit of the promise, like Joshua and Caleb, but also believe God for the overcoming needed to obtain it.

Bring Back a Report

During the past decade, just as Moses sent out the ten spies into the promised land, God sent a small selected group to go in and spy out the land of this testing and trying, and bring back a report. These undercover agents were assigned with a task to bring back the strategy for taking the land. In 2001, the Lord showed me in a vision, a small company of such secret agents who would embark on this special task. These intelligence agents were to go through such a season of testing and refining beforehand so they could come back with the report and relay the results to the rest of the group. The purpose from the onset of that mission has been to come back with a report. This spiritual expedition has always been for the purpose of bringing back the plans for how to navigate and triumph through the difficulties ahead. This booklet is my report.

It is a good land. It is a land which can be taken. We can go in and take possession of the promises. It can, however, only be done as we bow in reverence to the Lord of hosts. We will have to come into and remain in agreement with God and allow Him to disentangle us from the things of this world.

But First, Circumcision and Passover

Joshua 5:2-12 NIV - At that time the Lord said to Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again." So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth. Now this is why he did so: All those who came out of Egypt—all the men of military age—died in the wilderness on the way after leaving Egypt. All the people that came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness during the journey from Egypt had not. The Israelites had moved about in the wilderness forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the Lord. For the Lord had sworn to them that they would not see the land he had solemnly promised their ancestors to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. So he raised up their sons in their place, and these were the ones Joshua circumcised. They were still uncircumcised because they had not been circumcised on the way. And after the whole nation had been circumcised, they remained where they were in camp until they were healed. Then the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." So the place has been called Gilgal to this day. On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the

land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the produce of Canaan.

Only a people who have been consecrated and commissioned by God can enter and take possession of the promise. Only those who have left the wilderness and fully submitted their lives to God's covenant will be allowed to enter the land of the promise. (see Joshua 5:2-12 above) This is a new place. And it will take making a fresh commitment to the Lord upon entering this season. Circumcision is a cutting away of the *flesh* that covers our heart.

Romans 2:29 BSB - No, a man is a Jew because he is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise does not come from men, but from God.

Jeremiah 4:4 Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and remove the foreskins of your hearts, O men of Judah and people of Jerusalem. Otherwise, My wrath will break out like fire and burn with no one to extinguish it, because of your evil deeds."

The observance of Passover isn't just a Jewish holiday. It is an acknowledgment of the living reality that God has delivered us from the bondage of sin. Another way to say it would be, coming back to the foot of the cross of Christ. For many of us that initial experience seems a lifetime ago. The generation of Hebrews who observed Passover at Gilgal never lived in Egypt. They didn't have the experience of running from Pharaoh. They only knew the wilderness, the Tabernacle and Moses.

Upon entering the Promise they had to learn that what comes first is the painful price of circumcision. It also begins with coming back to where it all begins. It begins with covenant. It begins with the cross. It's the basics and the basis of our faith. We begin this new endeavor with coming back to the simplicity of salvation and the foundation of our faith, the finished work of the cross.

This coming season calls for different strategy. It calls for a different posture than the previous season. Dependency upon the Lord will look quite different in this season than it did in the last. In the prior season for Israel they experienced the manna. In this new season they will begin to eat the fruit of the land. What was abundantly prevalent in the previous season will be non-existent in the next. Our provision will come out of being in covenant with God. This coming season will be accompanied with the both the pain of circumcision and the joyous celebration of freedom from bondage.

Before we take possession of the promise and fulfill our destiny our hearts must be circumcised. We must embrace and celebrate the powerful simplicity of being saved by grace

through faith. (Eph. 2:8) Being in covenant with God is what aligns us with God. Only then can we begin to take possession of the promise.

John 3:3- 8 BSB - Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, except anyone be born from above, he is not able to see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus says to Him, "How is a man able to be born, being old? Is he able to enter into the womb of his mother a second time, and to be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless anyone be born of water and of the Spirit, he is not able to enter into the kingdom of God. That having been born of the flesh is flesh, and that having been born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not wonder that I said to you, 'It is necessary for you all to be born from above.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know from where it comes and where it goes. Thus is everyone having been born of the Spirit."

The circumcision of the heart is done with the sharp flint knife. In Hebrew the word translated knife is the word chereb (חרב) which is the same word for sword. The knife used for circumcision is not the last sword they will encounter. This word chereb (חרב) is the same word used to describe the flaming twirling sword, wielded by the cherubim (כרובים) at the entrance to Eden. (Gen. 3:24)

Entering the promise, or venturing into Eden to partake of the tree of life, are both accomplished through submitting to the sword of the Lord of hosts. That sword is welded by our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. There is a sword [chereb (חרב)] used to circumcise our hearts. There is also the sword [chereb (חרב)] used to defeat the enemy. This sword [chereb (חרב)] does not submit to man. Man must allow himself to be vulnerable and submit to the One who weilds the sword [chereb (חרב)] of the Lord. We don't perform our own circumcision.

CAPTAIN OF THE HOST OF THE LORD

We can only enter the promise land of our destiny in Christ by coming into alignment and obeying the Lord exclusively. We will have to become like Jesus by being in full agreement with the Father. (John 10:30) When the Israelites entered the Promise Land they were confronted by the Captain of the host of the Lord. The encounter with the Captain of the host of the Lord, brought things into immediate perspective and alignment before they were able to begin to take the land. The Israelites would have to come into submission to God and do things God's way if they were to have victory. We will have to do the same. It is the joining together of two armies; the dance of mahanaim (Song 6:13).

Being in covenant with God means not only aligning with Him but submitting to Him. It is all about oneness with Him. Before we can make our first conquest in the land of promise, we will be confronted with the sword wielding, Captain of the host of the Lord (Sar Tsaba Yehovah). This introduces us to exactly *Who* was in charge of entering in and taking possession of the land promised by God. For Israel, it wasn't Joshua, the God appointed leader of Israel. It was Sar Tsaba Yehovah, the man who confronted the God appointed earthly leader. We may be the men and women appointed by God to seize the promise and lead the people, but there is a chain of command. We are under authority. Joshua didn't lead Israel to victory. The Captain of the host of the Lord did. Joshua's position, as well as ours, needs to be one of total and complete submission to Him. Every step of the way through this coming season we will be called upon to take the posture of submission to the One Who wields this sword.

.....
This season is
unavoidable if you want
to fulfill the amazing
destiny which God has
revealed to you.
.....

Are You For Us Or Against Us?

Joshua 5:13-15 Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?" He said, "No; rather I indeed come now as captain of the host of the LORD." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, "What has my lord to say to his servant?" The captain of the LORD'S host said to Joshua, "Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

Before making their first attempt to take possession of the Promised Land, Joshua was confronted by a man with a drawn sword. Joshua did not ask him a yes or no question. You

are either for us or against us. Yet Sar Tsaba Yehovah's response was: "Neither," He replied. "I have now come as commander of the LORD's army." (ISV) If we are on the assignment of the Lord, stepping into something God has promised all along, logic dictates that God is on our side. Yet, that isn't what happened here. This isn't about having God on our side. It's about submitting to God, doing it His way. We must recognize that seizing the promise with the self-willed tenacity of human effort won't work. We must be joined with the army of heaven. We must be function in unison. We must work as one ~ Mahanaim.

We will be confronted by the Captain of the host of the Lord. Before possessing the promise we will come face to face with the man with the drawn sword, Who is neither for us or against us. He is *Sar Tsaba Yehovah*. He isn't here to establish our kingdom. He is here to establish His kingdom. We must recognize that where we are is holy ground.

Yehovah



Yehovah Tsabaoth¹ צְבָאוֹת יְהוָה (plural form of tsaba צְבָא), is **Lord of hosts**. Yehovah (Yahweh) יְהוָה is neither for or against. He does not take sides. He is who He is. Sar Tsaba Yehovah is the Captain of the host of the Lord. Sar שָׂר is the Hebrew word for chief, prince, captain, commander, governor, leader or ruler. Tsaba צְבָא is the Hebrew word for host or army. Yehovah does not bow

before man; neither does He take directives. The Captain of Yehovah's army is under the authority of Yehovah (See Footnote)². Man takes orders from Yehovah. It is to this man with the drawn sword that they must bow before they can attempt to conquer the promised land.

The same is true of this new army of bondservants (evedim). Our response is simply to bow. We must recognize that God does things His way. He neither asks our permission, nor seeks our approval. If the devourer is to be removed and the promises obtained it will be necessary to allow the man with the sword to have his way. Our response throughout will have to be

¹ Scripture references for Yehovah Tsabaoth- 1 Samuel 1:3; Isaiah 3:1, 22:14; Haggai 1:2, 2:9, 2:23; Zechariah 1:3, 7:12, 8:3,6,9,14 & 14:21; Malachi 2:12 & 16.

² John 5:19 Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does."

John 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but to do the will of Him who sent Me."

John 12:44-50 Then Jesus cried out, "Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."

one of bowing in submission to His authority. We will see more of the sword wielding Sar Tsaba Yehovah along with way.

A HELP AND A GUIDE

My mandate is to be a helper. My objective is to facilitate navigating through the season ahead. God has built into the coming season the means by which to get through. Understanding the times and seasons will be of some help. If our response to situations is anchored in human logic and reason, we will run amuck. The things God calls us to do, defy what human wisdom/logic dictates. That doesn't mean that wisdom doesn't play a role. It does. Yet it isn't our *own* wisdom in which we can trust. We will have to rely upon the wisdom that comes from God not our own human understanding.

Proverbs 3:5-8 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body and refreshment to your bones.

While I would say that the bondservant of the Lord has already learned this concept, living it out in this season will be absolutely vital. Having said that, it won't be easy.

This book is not just about the time of testing and refining. It is about what that testing and refining will look like and what needs to be done in the midst of it. It is my intention that this book offer guidance. I hope to give a glimpse into what it will be like, how long it will last, and what to expect while in it. This is intended to be an encouragement. I will explain and expound on the vision and word the Lord gave me concerning the season of testing and refinement. We will also look at the prophetic/symbolic significance of the Hebrew calendar and how it will impact the season ahead.

Uncovering and Releasing the Real Authentic You

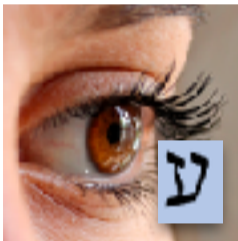
Your destiny is unique. Only you can fulfill it in the way God intends. There is only one you. No one else can replace you. If *you* don't fulfill *your* calling and destiny its remains unfulfilled. Someone else cannot replace you or fulfill your destiny. There is no sending in a substitute in your place. The destiny God has for you is to be fulfilled specifically by you. I am one tiny drop in an ocean of bondservants. But put a mass of those drops together with the power and force of the Spirit of the Lord and you have the tsunami wave which will usher in the End Times dispensation culminating with the second coming of Christ.

It is important that the *real* you, the *authentic* you, is fully realized. The process of testing and refining is to ensure that the genuine authentic you that God created is brought to fullness. Only when we are fully and completely our authentic self can we fully and completely be released into the destiny God has for us.

When our authentic self is hidden behind a façade the genuine individual God created isn't seen. The season ahead is designed to remove façades, alter mindsets, change paradigms and realigning the people of God. This book is a glimpse.

A Glimpse at the Calendar

When I first wrote this book it was July 2019 (Hebrew year 5779). On September 30, 2019 the Hebraic decade changed to 5780. The 5770's were characterized by the Hebrew letter (ע) ayin (eye) which is the number 70. The 5780's is marked by the Hebrew letter (פ) peh



(mouth) which is the number 80. With the change of the decade there has been a dynamic spiritual shift. This current decade will be dominated by the significance and spiritual implications of the Hebrew letter (פ) peh. More writings are available concerning the current Hebraic decade at: [5700 & Beyond](#).

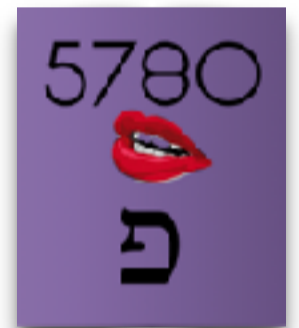


Image from beyondthedalet.net

During the season identified with the (ע) ayin, an eye, there was much focus on spiritual insight. During this current decade the overarching theme will center on (פ) peh, a mouth or an aperture.

The purpose for the season of testing and refining which many are about to enter is to bring us into alignment with God's way of doing things. We will be living on God's time schedule, not one we have created for ourselves and try to shove God into. This is not a time to make things happen through our own strength or devices. This is a time of radical submission through a forged allegiance with Yehovah Tsabaoth.

In the next chapter I discuss the prophetic word the Lord gave me concerning the upcoming season of testing and refining. In the chapters that follow I will expound on the prophetic pictures that define the season.

A WORK IN THE SOUL

1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

The word the Lord gave me concerning the season of testing and refining involves a diminishing followed by being raised up. This particular season is designed for the expressed purpose of accomplishing a major reconstruction work in the soul and the ultimately the removal of the devourer. This time of diminishing must precede being lifted up and released into the promised destiny call of God. It is the circumcision of the heart. It will be a time of weakness.

Separating Soul From Spirit

The workings of the soul are complex. The spirit and the soul are enmeshed. We don't know what paradigms, mindsets and deep inner beliefs we have until God shines His light on them. This time of diminishing is designed to do just that. Because of the complex nature of the soul it takes a complex work to bring the deep things of the soul into alignment with Spirit of God. The only thing capable of this intensely thorough and penetrating work is the Spirit of God. God is Spirit and God is love. Those who worship God must worship Him in Spirit and in truth. God desires truth in the inward parts. It is this inward work of the Spirit of God which will bring much needed healing to the souls of those called to God's work.

.....
For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.
Hebrews 4:12 NLT
.....

This work will go deeper and further than recent prior generations experienced. God is doing a deeper work. There is a reason this work has to go deeper. We need a greater anointing. We need more power than what has been accessible in previous generations. That might seem overwhelming to some. We need a greater portion. In order to receive a greater portion we need a deeper work of the Spirit to be accomplished in our lives.

This is a prophetic word specifically addressed to the bondservants of the Lord. While this is not necessarily an attack of the enemy there will be ongoing wrestling with the enemy of our souls throughout the season ahead. It's going to take a particular stand in order to not merely survive, but overcome. It will take submitting to Sar Tsaba Yehovah, the Captain of the host of the Lord, the man with the drawn sword. That means we will be in hand to hand combat with the enemy of our soul. Overcoming is not merely an objective. Overcoming is essential. It will require siding with the Lord of hosts in order to possess the promises.

Destiny can only be embraced when we leave the wilderness behind, and change not only our tactics and strategies, but our mindsets. The recent deposit of major spiritual impartation is going to draw upon to get us through what is coming.

The message concerning this season requires explanation and elaboration. There are very difficult and trying days ahead. I am not referring to social or political upheaval. I am not

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This word is specifically about the testing and trying of the saints of God so that they can and will obtain the promises pertaining to their destiny.
.....

talking about what might be interpreted as Christian persecution. I am not prophesying about world events or some kind of national judgment. This word is specifically about the testing and trying of the saints of God. They will obtain the promise of their divine destiny. They are destined to be filled with a deposit of a new dispensation of the Spirit of God. The purpose for the testing and refining is to ultimately make ready the entire body of Christ. The testing is necessary so that we can step into that for which we have been commissioned. Get

be ready for to receive the new deposit. Deep calls out to deep. The prior season has been one of going into and receiving a deep deposit in our spirit-man. The next phase will take us into a deeper work in the soul. God established this deep work in the Spirit in us in order to prepare us to go into the depth of the soul. This is the next phase of preparation.

A Stripping, a Diminishing, a Season of Drought

The first part of the word I received has to do with a diminishing. The second part has to do with being lifted up. Both the diminishing and the lifting up are being done by the Lord. Whether we call it a stripping, a diminishing or a drought, it means things are going to gradually decline, dwindle and dry up. This step is necessary in order to get at the deep things contained in the soul. Because the soul is complex, the work involved in separating soul from spirit takes the delicate and intricate precision of a surgeon. Only the Great Physician knows under what precise conditions that work needs to take place.

God sent the locust, as referred to in the book of Joel, (see Joel 1:4 and 2:25) for the purpose of devouring and stripping. The purpose wasn't to destroy the people of God entirely, but to bring them to a place where God could pour out the blessing of His Spirit. This diminishing is for the purpose of establishing and securing this company of bondservants, so that they can obtain the manifold blessing and anointing of God of which

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And afterward, I will pour out My Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on My menservants and maidservants, I will pour out My Spirit in those days. Joel 2:28-29
.....

they have been promised.

Agendas Aside

Personal agenda, aggrandizement and self promotion will destroy the anointing and waylay the recipient of the blessing. The blessings which accompany the anointing and empowerment of God must be used for God's agenda and not our own. In order to ensure that the deposit of the Spirit is not compromised through personal agenda it is necessary to do this work in the soul first. For instance, to those who have been promised wealth, that wealth must be used as God directs. If the *devourer* is not removed it will consume every trace of promise and leave the recipient not only bankrupt. To those who have been promised great gifts of healing and ministry, they too must use those gifts at the expressed direction of the Lord without letting self interest get in the way. Unfortunately, we are human and self interest almost always gets in the way. Wealth, power and influence have the power to corrupt. We have witnessed many great men and women of God fall prey to the seductive power of the things of this world.

In order to fulfill God's agenda we have to be made ready. When we are released into the destiny and receive the promise we must be able to fulfill God's intentions and not get taken sideways or waylaid by the devourer. To ensure this outcome we must undergo a circumcision of the soul first.

Out of Agreement and Into Alignment

One aspect of this testing has to do with bringing us out of agreement with the things of this world and getting realigned with the kingdom of God and His plan. In order for the destiny to be fulfilled each one must first be disentangled from the god of this world through coming out of agreement with the enemy. In many ways this company of people have already begun to do that. Yet, there is more work to be done. The testing season has this particular divine task embedded within it.

I consider myself to be someone who is led by the Spirit of the Lord. I have been walking a life of obedience since I was a young woman. I wouldn't have considered myself as being carnally inclined or in agreement with the things of this world. Yet, when put under the knife of this season of diminishing, God has uncovered things which only *this* kind of testing can reveal. We don't know what needs to be dealt with until God reveals it. It has to be revealed in order to be healed or removed. Diminishing brings it to the surface. There is no condemnation in this. This isn't because God is looking for a reason to disqualify us. The purpose for going through this is because God has deemed us qualified. Dealing with the

issues of the soul must precede removing the devourer. If He doesn't we will be consumed by the devourer.

A Rehabbing Project

This time of diminishing will be a time of reconstruction and rebuilding. This isn't like putting an on addition. It's more like a complete teardown and building something totally new.



You could say that the upcoming season will be similar in many ways to Job's experience. This is a season, designed and implemented by the Lord for the expressed purpose of rebuilding and realigning the soul. We don't know in what way our souls are not in alignment with God. Our Great Physician knows how to apply just the right pressure needed to make any spiritual chiropractic type of adjustments.

Sometimes It Helps To Know What Is Up Ahead.

Being diminishing is hard. At times it makes you wonder where God is in the midst of it. Because circumstances can appear diametrically opposed to the prior season it can come across as an attack from the enemy. We can wonder what we did wrong. It is difficult to endure receiving incredible anointing and commissioning and then be hurled headlong into confusing circumstances. It is kind of like the word to Pharaoh during the days of Joseph. There will be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of drought. Joseph was positioned at a very strategic time to ensure that as many made it through the drought as possible. The difference in this situation is that the season of diminishing precedes the time of being lifted up. That lifting up will be to a greater level than where you were before.

Prepared yet Unprepared

I don't mean to imply that all of a sudden your life is going down the drain and horrible things are going to happen. They might. But then again, they might not. This isn't just about circumstances and learning to rely on God in the face of adversity. If you haven't worked that out by now you probably aren't going into the diminishing season assigned for the bondservants. A five year old wouldn't be expected to pass a calculus exam. At the same time a college level math student should have already mastered fractions and percentages. If he hasn't he doesn't belong in a more advanced class. This is a testing of the bondservants. These are the ones who have received massive impartation during the previous season, and have been through prior seasons of overcoming. As a result much of what they are going through will be misinterpreted and misunderstood by the bulk of the body of Christ.

Only those who have been prepared ahead of time by God will be entering into this trial. It is not for the faint of heart. It is also not by choice. God is the one doing the choosing. We can't ask to go through it or ask to be left out. Once the season begins there will be no going back. The only option will be to keep going forward. You won't be able to accelerate or put on the brakes. At the same time it won't come upon you all at once.

We Know in Part

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K n o w i n g
s o m e t h i n g i s
c o m i n g a n d
e n d u r i n g i t a r e t w o
d i f f e r e n t t h i n g s .
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It has only been as I have lived through this, that I have more understanding. The Lord gave me very clear instruction and insight at the onset, and yet I had no inkling as to what this was really about until I was well into it. I didn't know it was going to last as long as it did either.

The particular circumstances and specific details will be unique to each individual but the overall picture will be pretty much the same. I know more now, as God has revealed more, and given me understanding which I didn't possess early on. Yet, I still only know in part. The understanding and insight I have been given is for the expressed purpose of helping others to go through their season of diminishing before being lifted up. There is no leadership coaching, ministry training, prophetic act or any other indoctrination which can prepare one for going through this kind of testing. We can only endure by submitting to Sar Tsaba Yehovah and allowing Him to wield His sword at will.

I pray that this message be an encouragement. I pray that the Lord supply all that is needed to overcome in the midst of great trial. Bless you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

PROPHETIC ILLUSTRATION

I received a couple of prophetic pictures from the Lord which lend to deciphering this season of diminishing. One of those illustrations came through a dream. Another came through a vision. And the third illustration was given through a prophetic word. The images and symbolism from the dream are the foundation upon which the other prophetic pictures build.

Before I tell you the dream I want to make it clear that when I had the dream I thought it was pointing to something else. Based on learned methods of interpretation I applied various scenarios to what I thought the dream might mean. Every time I thought I knew how the dream was to be interpreted and applied I was shown by the Lord that I was wrong. Recently, the Lord gave me a word telling me outright that this dream applies specifically to this season of diminishing. Having said that, I *know* that this dream can be interpreted in other ways. There was a nine year delay from when I had the dream to when the Lord informed me as its application.

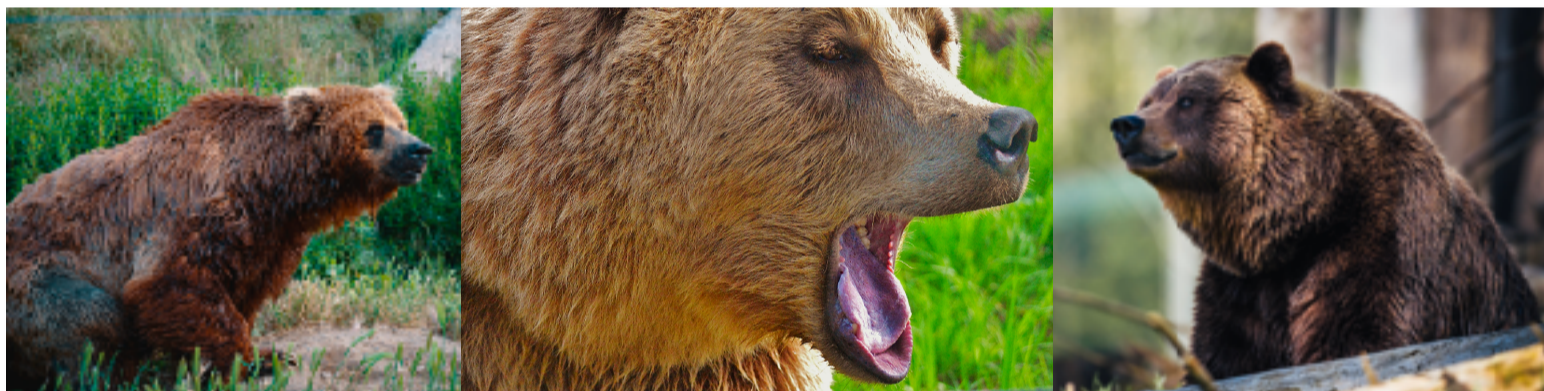
The Dream

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In the dream there were three bears which came up out of a river. Each one was darker in color and more ragged and disheveled than the one before. I watched as these three bears began to chase a (21 year old) young adult named David, into a familiar residential area. I was trying to pray, but it seemed like nothing was working. Then I said, "Father, God would you send angels from heaven to cut these bears off so they don't kill David." I couldn't see the angels but I saw the bears stop and turn away from the young man. Then I realized they were now coming toward me. I was standing amidst the forest, near the stream from which the bears emerged. I heard a voice instruct me to climb a tree and wait until they passed. I didn't think that would be much good since bears are known for being able to climb trees. But I was assured that I was to climb the tree and wait. The tree had limbs which came straight out to the side as if it were a ladder. The dream ended with me waiting at the top of the tree and the bears at the foot of the tree. I had to wait until they were gone.
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Interpretation and Application

The Lord told me that each of the bears coming up out of the river indicated a period of time. A similar timing element is referred to in the interpretation of Pharaoh's dream in Genesis 41 concerning the cows which come up out of the river. Originally, I assumed the three bears indicated three years. I was corrected by the Lord later. The Lord further informed me that the disheveled appearance of the bears indicated degrees of diminishing. Each bear was progressively more scraggly looking bears than the prior. These three degrees of disheveling pointed to three stages or phases of diminishing which were progressive in nature. As one phase was over the next stage would begin. The third bear was the darkest and straggiest of all.

Upon awakening from the dream the Lord told me that the symbolism of the bear represented what was to be applied spiritually, like that of a *bear market*. At the time (2008) I assumed this was pointing to some kind of financial downturn that would last three years. When the real estate market took a nose dive a few days later I again assumed my dream was pointing to that event.



Being under the misconception that the three bears signified three years I figured that the downturn would last until 2011. While I have known that I was wrong in my original interpretation, it wasn't until July 2019, when the Lord gave me clear understanding. The Lord showed me that this indicated three phases or stages of diminishing. It was then that the Lord instructed me to write the message in this book. Frankly, my head is still spinning a bit from the influx of information the Lord has been giving me in the past few weeks.

The Lord has shown me that the symbolism associated with the three bears represents three stages or phases rather than three literal calendar years. I want to make this distinction up front. I went through eleven years of assuming I knew what the dream pointed to. I had no idea of God's application until He began to unravel the mystery. Along with the interpretation of symbolism came further understanding that this diminishing associated with the bears was linked with a word I received in 2001 about being stripped. The most recent word on this subject which the Lord gave me is: ***“First the bear, then the bull.”***

First The Bear Then The Bull

Both the bear and the bull are pictures taken from terms used to describe activity in the stock market. The expressions *a bear or bull market* get their name from the manner in which the animal attacks its victim. Bears attack with a downward swipe while bulls on the other hand strike upward with their horns. This expression is used to describe downward and upward trends in the stock market. It is with this illustrative analogy that the Lord gave me the word: *“First the bear, then the bull,”* indicating that there would be a diminishing followed by being lifted up.

What is known as *secular bear market* is when a bear market lasts from anywhere from 5 to 25 years. An extended bear market can have corrections or what appear as bull market periods within it. (The reverse is true during a secular bull market.) This kind of extended bear market might look something like this illustration below. It will have time of diminishing and times of what looks like a reversal but those reversals don't last.



This means within the long duration of a downward *bear* season there can be times when it appears that things are finally reversing. Those corrections may seem like a trend toward upward motion but they don't last and ultimately aren't significant or lasting enough to create any permanent improvement. Keep in mind that this is a prophetic picture symbolizing the coming season, not a prediction concerning the stock market. This is a prophetic picture of the coming season of diminishing during the refining the soul.

The three phases of the diminishing season are intended to bring healing and alignment with the heart of God. God's intended purpose through this process is restoration and equipping so that we can carry the call and anointing of God. This diminishing is not confined to either the natural or the spiritual realm. It will effect both.

The Bear Is Going After the Heart.

In the dream, the bears began chasing the young man *David*. (David in the dream represents those with a heart after God, yet at present, relatively immature. Yet, because of prayerful intercession the devourer has turned away from the young man. They turned rather to a me,

a mother, seasoned intercession and of greater maturity. I was in my forties at the time. The number forty points to testing and bringing something to completion. My name means a house.

This season will involve relentless pursuit of the heart. While king David was a man after God's heart he was not a perfect man. He made some pretty huge mistakes at times. But the Lord kept pursuing David's heart. When David committed murder in order to steal his friend's wife, Bathsheba, God did not let David live with that secret. (2 Samuel 11) God exposed it and David responded by acknowledging that he had in fact sinned against God. And David repented to the Lord. (2 Samuel 12)

Our hearts are the house, the tabernacle in which the Spirit of God dwells. We are the temple of the God. (1 Cor. 3:16 & 6:19) God is cleaning His house. (1 Peter 4:17) In the dream the bears were chasing a young man named David. The David in the dream had just turned twenty-one. He had just come of age, so to speak. He had just reached manhood. This points to the bondservants who have recently received the commission of the Lord and received the impartation of destiny in the current season. It is this company of David's who have come of age, so to speak, in the current season who will be going through the season of testing and refining in this next season.

Proverbs 10:27 NIV The human spirit is the lamp of the LORD that sheds light on one's inmost being.

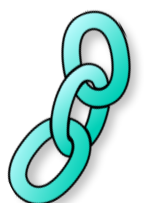
Proverbs 20:30 GNT Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.

Proverbs 19:25b NASB ...But reprove one who has understanding and he will gain knowledge.

Psalms 141:5 CSB Let the righteous one strike me--it is an act of faithful love; let him rebuke me--it is oil for my head; let me not refuse it.

The Three Phases of Downward Progression

The diminishing will be accomplished in three steps or phases. The degree of diminishing increases in three distinct yet connected stages. These stages are separate yet interlaced. It will be indiscernible to determine when one stage ends and another begins.



As prophetic pictures go, they are not something that should be taken literally. God is not releasing actual devouring bears in the natural. This is a prophetic picture that does not have a literal interpretation or application. When dealing with spiritual things we always need to keep in mind that it is God who is doing the work. He knows best what our position and warfare is in the midst of the situation. In this case, the warfare is WAIT! It is **not** to power up against the bear. Remember God's purpose is ultimately to remove the devourer so that we can obtain and maintain the promise. This can only be accomplished by allowing Sar Tsaba Yehovah to wield *His* sharp sword.

One thing the Lord made very clear to me from the beginning of this process was that we only have to go through *this* particular season once. You will never have to go through *this* diminishing ever again. Be patient. It will not last forever, even though at times it feels like it might. The diminishing will end and the lifting up will follow.

NOT WHAT YOU MIGHT THINK

I cannot stress enough that the word about diminishing or stripping isn't necessarily restricted to financial lack. This is about being put in situations which are designed by God for the expressed purpose of transforming mindsets, beliefs, paradigms, doctrines and behavior. The objective is becoming a habitation for the Lord's presence and becoming carriers of a new dispensation of the Spirit of God. In other words, this bear season isn't about scaring us. This is greater than the daily shaking of our faith. This isn't about one storm coming against the house of the Lord *just* to see it shake. Oh, there will be shaking. In fact there will be a number of earthquakes and after shocks that will rock our lives. These earthquakes will hit on the fault lines of our soul, so to speak. These are strategic hits intended to shake the places where our mindsets, beliefs, paradigms, doctrines and behavior are not fully anchored on the rock of Christ. We don't know what will shake loose until everything starts to quake.

I am reminded of a dream my late grandfather had around the same time I received this message. (2000 -2001) In the dream he saw God's hands clenched. God pounded His fists hard as if striking them on a table. As God's fists hit the surface, it sent reverberations throughout my grandfather. With a loud voice, the Lord said, "*It's all coming down!*" Grandpa was filled with the fear of the Lord. He was shaken to the core and filled with awe and wonder.

A Whole Lot of Shaking Going On

We don't usually know what our mindsets are founded on. Mindsets are hidden from us. Sometimes those mindsets are like a fault line under the earth. Sometimes our mindsets can be like the New Madrid fault which doesn't have any surface evidence that it even exists. Some beliefs are so buried beneath the surface of our consciousness that we don't even know they are there. Only the deep penetrating work of the Holy Spirit can get to the bedrock of our soul. This season of testing and refining is designed for such a purpose.

Mindsets, Beliefs, Paradigms, Doctrines And Behavior

Let's start with behavior. Our mindsets, beliefs, paradigms and doctrines influence our behavior. When these are out of alignment or not in agreement with the heart of God they are in need of adjustment. Only the sword of Sar Tsaba Yehovah can expertly separate these elements without causing damage to the individual.

Hebrews 4:12 NASB - For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

The Word of God

The living and active word of God does not refer to a book. It is a reference to the living breathing word made flesh that dwells among us (John 1:14). This is speaking of Jesus, the Living Word of God. Jesus is the Prince and Captain of the host of Yehovah. In Jesus' word to the church of Pergamum (Rev. 2:16) He states: "Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth." [NASB]. Rev. 1:16 describes Jesus as: *In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a **sharp**¹ two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.* [NASB].

This is an extremely sharp sword. It is this, *sharper than any two edged, sword* that is being wielded by Sar Tsaba Yehovah with the expressed purpose of dividing soul from spirit and judging thoughts and intentions of the heart. Our thoughts are not the same as the intentions of our heart. And it takes the sharp sword of the Captain of the host of the Lord to divide them.

Separating Soul and Spirit

We are three part beings. We are spirit beings. We are physical beings. We are soul beings.

Genesis 2:7 KJV - And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.



Just as the physical sanctuary/tent [Mishkan] of the Tabernacle contains both the holy place and the Holy of holies, our physical body contains our soul and spirit. A veil separates the soul and spirit. Only our High Priest, Jesus, can go beyond the veil into the most sacred place of our being. Only Christ can be trusted with the delicate nature of this holy procedure.

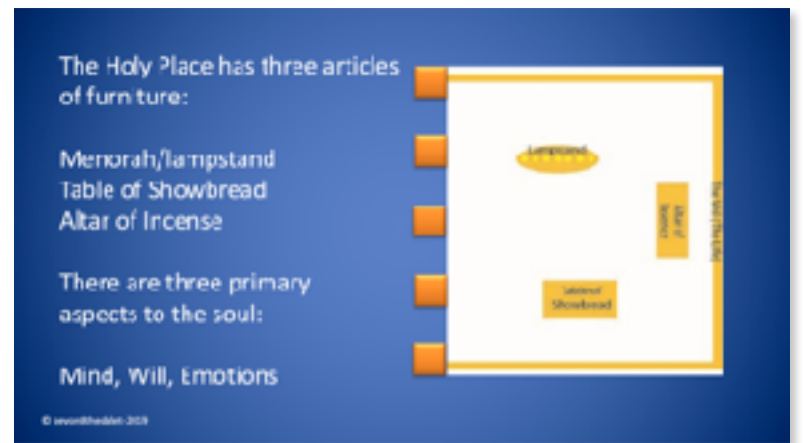
When man attempts to make soul corrections we take the chance of doing damage to our soul/spirit. When man performs this operation we end up scarred. When Jesus does the work we end up beautifully transformed. Only the scalpel of Sar Tsaba Yehovah has the

¹ The Greek word oxus translated in the above verse as sharp relays not only sharpness but rapid swiftness as well.

ability to separate soul from spirit. This separation is essential before going forward into the promise of God. This vital and delicate operation takes time and patience. Hence, the long duration of the diminishing season.

With surgical dexterity the Lord will be carrying out the refining of the soul. The main focus of

this testing and refining season is conducted within the holy place of the believer. Throughout this phase there will be a lot of work in the soul. Sometimes it might even feel



like you've been through surgery. One thing necessary during surgery is anesthetic. This isn't a minor thing. This process can be much like undergoing major surgery. And it can take a massive amount of anesthetic. The anesthetic puts us to sleep.

Anyone who has been through major surgery can tell you that the operation itself is just one aspect. Recovery from having the operation takes much longer in comparison. My brother recently underwent a knee replacement. While there have been great strides in

recent years it's still a very invasive procedure. My brother was awake. OMG! My mom was knocked out when she had her surgery. My brother's surgeon chose a local anesthetic. My brother didn't feel anything while the surgery was being done. But, YIKES!!! Did he feel it when that wonderfully numbing anesthetic wore off and he was left with nothing but Advil®. Recovery from this kind of penetrating incision involves physical therapy. My brother knows how to walk. He knows how to exercise. But this procedure required special instructions and special help. The therapy we will need might be equally as painful. Yet, it is essential to our recovery.

What's my point? My point is that this isn't like getting a tooth extracted. This will be a season of major operation within the soul. It's deep. It's penetrating. And recovery in the midst of it may be painful. At the same time, it is for purpose of transformation and healing. It's unavoidable. It's necessary. It's required. Anesthetic may be necessary in the midst of it. We live differently during recovering from surgery than we do in our normal everyday life. Be kind and gracious to yourself during those times.

Deuteronomy 25:4 NLT - "You must not muzzle an ox to keep it from eating as it treads out the grain."

MINDSETS, PARADIGMS, DOCTRINES AND BELIEFS

Earlier I touched on the idea of mindsets, paradigms, doctrines and beliefs. Just so we're all on the same page, I will make an effort to define what I mean by mindsets, paradigms, doctrines and beliefs. These things are usually so ingrained in us that we hardly even notice they are there. Dissertations have been written on these subjects. Space, however, does not permit a more in-depth discussion on these matters.

Definitions¹

Mindset: a habitual or characteristic mental attitude that determines how you will interpret and respond to situations. A complex mental state involving beliefs and feelings and values and dispositions to act in certain ways.

Synonyms are: **attitude**, ethos, mentality, mental processes, way of thinking

Paradigm: a standard, perspective, or set of ideas. A way of looking at something. A way of regarding situations or topics etc.

Synonyms are: **perspective**, position, view, pattern, criterion,

Doctrine: a doctrine is a set of beliefs. A belief (or system of beliefs) accepted as authoritative by some group or school. The word comes from the Latin word *doctor* for "teacher." Think of a *doctrine* is the teachings of a school, religion, or political group.

Synonyms are: **philosophy**, school of thought, creed, dogma,

Belief: an idea one accepts as being true or real. (any cognitive content held as true; a vague idea in which some confidence is placed)

Synonyms are: **opinion**, feeling, impression, notion

Behavior: refers to how you conduct yourself.

Synonyms are: **actions**, conduct, trait, demeanor, performance

Internal Standards Impact Outward Behavior

¹ taken from: vocabulary.com, www.merriam-webster.com, www.thesaurus.com, www.dictionary.com

Mindsets, paradigms, doctrines and beliefs are the internal controls that govern our way of thinking. We may have opinions but we aren't always cognitively aware of where they originate. Mindsets are habits of the mind formed by previous experience. Our minds develop patterns of thinking (paradigms). Our brains revert to this ingrained infrastructure. It always adheres to the pattern it has already established. Mindsets and paradigms control our responses to life. They influence our behavior. What we believe determines our perspective. Doctrines are simply beliefs based on something we have been taught.

Religion/religious doctrine addresses outward behavior without regard to the inward framework which governs it. Religion isn't interested in the real authentic you. God is. Religion/religious doctrine is a structure which thrives on adherence to rules and regulations such as: don't touch, don't look, don't act. It's a backward approach to change. Yes, we can control our behavior, to a point. But it only addresses things outwardly. God is interested in the inward heart. He is invested in altering the inner-man. This kind of outward control will almost always result in some kind of inward resistance, defiance or rebellion.

2 Corinthians 4:16 NASB - Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

Ephesians 3:16 NASB - that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,

Entry below from the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

INWARD MAN¹

in'-werd: A Pauline term, nearly identical with the "hidden man of the heart" (1 Peter 3:4). The Greek original, 5 ho eso (also esother) anthropos (Romans 7:22) is lexicographically defined "the internal man," i.e. "soul," "conscience." It is the immaterial part of man-mind, spirit-in distinction from the "outward man" which "perishes" (2 Corinthians 4:16 the King James Version). As the seat of spiritual influences it is the sphere in which the Holy Spirit does His renewing and saving work (Ephesians 3:16). The term "inward man" cannot be used interchangeably with "the new man," for it may still be "corrupt," and subject to "vanity" and "alienated from the life of God." Briefly stated, it is mind, soul, spirit-God's image in man-man's higher nature, intellectual, moral, and spiritual.

¹ Dwight M. Pratt, International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

In short, mindsets, paradigms, doctrines and beliefs are embedded in the mind and enmeshed within the soul. It takes the delicate internal work of the Holy Spirit to renew and transform the soul.

A PRECURSOR

Forewarned Is Forearmed

Twenty years ago, long before I was given the prophetic picture of the bear season the Lord spoke me about something He was going to do in my life. I was going about my day and was interrupted midstream by an experience with the Lord. In that moment, I was taken aback by His words. Yet, I was comforted by the nearness of God. When the Lord speaks the Holy Spirit bears witnesses to your spirit that what is being communicated is true. This was one of those experiences. I knew that what I was hearing was truth. Yet, I was baffled and had no real idea as to its impact. Here's what the Lord said to me and the vision I had in the midst of the experience.

“I am going to take you through something and when it is over you are going to turn and help others to go through the same thing. Something is coming and I am sending a few people ahead so that they can help others to go through after them. I'm going to strip you of everything. I'm going to do it while everyone around you is prospering.”

While receiving this word I saw a map of the United States. My view was as if I were standing above Illinois (my home state) and looking toward the east. This was a satellite view. I could see the outlines of the other states. I saw pins stuck in the map. Each pin represented one person. The top part of pins had the appearance like that of some kind of light. I saw only a few of these pins of light throughout the eastern region. I knew that each pin represented a person whom the Lord had designated to go through a similar stripping process around the same time as me.



The concept the Lord made very clear to me was that this was being done so that this small company of people would be able to help others to make it through. Then He said to me, “... *What is coming will be worse than the Great Depression...*” I was astonished at those words. I



didn't know if that was speaking of literal circumstances or if the term was used metaphorically. I still really don't know for sure. The Lord continued, *“When your stripping is complete there will be a flip.”* I understood that flip to indicate a sharp sudden overturning. Sometime later, I heard the words, *“First the flip and then the pop.”* The pop would be like when popcorn pops. It's a sudden burst resulting in total transformation.

That word about being stripped was my introduction to what later got defined as a season of diminishing accompanied by the bear. During this first experience it was deeply imparted to

my spirit that the experience would come with some sort of impartation and commissioning. A profound sense of commitment to God's purpose was deposited within me. It was as if a mandate of the Lord was imprinted upon my internal being.

What I understood during that experience, and since then, has been that this *stripping* is what others would also go through. I didn't go through this because I knew how go through it. I went through it to learn about it.

I cannot stress enough that the word about diminishing or stripping isn't just about a season of financial lack. This is about being put in situations which are strategically designed by God for the expressed purpose of transforming mindsets, beliefs, paradigms, doctrines and behavior. This is about becoming a habitation for the Lord's presence and ushering in a new dispensation of the Spirit of God. It's an end times strategy that ultimately will culminate in the Second Coming.

PHASE ONE

The Tan Bear

It is during this initial stage that connections with certain people will begin to unravel. People you once thought were going to go forward with you, will all of a sudden not be there anymore. We have seen a lot of this kind of shifting taking place during the beginning years of the peh decade. The rearranging is for the purpose of positioning us for the journey ahead. God is realigning us during this stage. People, places and things are being shifted and removed. While there may be a bit of bewilderment on some level there will also be the knowledge that you are following the Spirit's leading. God will confirm the steps that you need to take. It will be vital to realign as God directs.

During this phase there may be a change in God's provision. This is going to look different for every individual. How God is providing may shift. We need to be flexible in whatever that shift might involve. For some there might also be a physical/geographic move of some kind during this shift. Shifting and changes effect all of us differently. Some people shrug off change, while others need more time to adjust to their new normal. Changes and realignment are a big aspect of this first stage.

The actual circumstances may not necessarily seem like diminishing. It may seem like a time of acquiring and stockpiling for the days ahead. The season will begin with a time of rest and relief from the prior season. During the beginning days and months there will be a time of packing for the trip, so to speak. It is a time of much needed refreshing and rejuvenating. Don't minimize the need for refreshment and revitalization. This will be a time of Spirit-led accumulation for the days ahead. Many will have been recently connected with a new financial source which will be needed in the days ahead.

New relationships will develop during the beginning of this part of phase of one. Aligning with the individuals God wants us aligned with, rather than those we've expected to be aligned with, is going to be critical. Because phase one is about realigning there will be a lot of relationship shifting. Some relationships will come to an end entirely. This is a time of much shifting and changing until we get settled into the place where we will remain for the duration of the diminishing. Some who were with you during an open heaven season may not be called to into your season of diminishing. This is a grave season. Not everyone is called to this journey at this time.

The Spirit Is Moving Differently

Remember God is chasing our heart. He is relentlessly going after our heart. He will be pursuing and capturing our heart all along the way. His incredible love and relentless pursuit is what will cause us to want to follow Him. His love will draw us every step of the way. It will be in those times of close fellowship with Lord where we will hear and know what direction to take. We may be surprised at what He reveals. We may not always understand why He instructs us to do some particular thing. Trusting and obeying His instructions will be how we will navigate through this season.

For prophetically gifted people not being able to *see* in the Spirit will be a completely unnerving. For those who rely solely on their seer gifting this season will require trusting when you can't see. It will take a different approach to discerning the Spirit. For those who are not heavily dependent upon spiritual gifting to find their way this season may be easier. The last season for many of these saints of God they experienced high levels of spiritual activity. This season will be vastly different. Our gifts are being sifted, shaken and stripped. This is not the time to rely on gifting. We will do better to trust the Giver rather than the gift.

Speaking as someone who has had their share of spiritual experiences, I can attest to the lack of manifestation of spiritual activity during this season. This season isn't about building up and displaying prophetic/spiritual gifts. Our gifts are being dismantled. This is a season in which spiritual gifting can get in the way. For some, this may feel like God has abandoned them. That's why I'm mentioning it. Because He hasn't. He won't. He is simply doing something else at the moment. He is working in the soul.

While the last decade may have included angelic visitations, spiritual realms and prophetic words, this season God will be using a very different delivery method. When the Spirit is manifest in tangible ways our spirit is connecting with God's Spirit. It's a wonderful thing. During times of high levels of anointing our spiritual gifting kicks in. Our spirit rises to the occasion. It's great. It feels wonderful. We are built up spiritually during those times. However, during low levels of anointing our spiritual gifting kicks into idle. This presents a problem for those people who only used to engaging spiritually during highly anointed times. When the spiritual manifestation of God's presence isn't discernible through our gifting, it is easy to think that God isn't there. The level of outward tangible manifest anointing will be less noticeable during this season. It will require us to connect with God in other ways than we did during the previous season. Sometimes it may actually seem like we aren't connected at all.

This season is all about the soul. The soul is getting all the attention. Last season it was all about the Spirit. Our spirit got all the attention. It needed to. That was what God was doing

in this company of bondservants during the past season. It's important to remember the season we are in and connect with God according to what God is doing in that season.

There's a new rhythm. There's a new beat. It's not about indulging the carnal nature and forgetting about God. It's not about casting off restraint and embracing an ungodly life. It is however, about letting go of the doctrines and mindsets which have gotten in the way and will ultimately sideline us later.

Just before entering the second phase there will have been another shift. That shift may seem minor in comparison to the shifts at the beginning of phase one. But some things may have to end before stepping over the threshold into phase two. There's a door that is coming and in order to be lined up with the door there may be a change in position that has to happen. This door in the Spirit can be seen headed right toward you. But you will have to shift in order to be in the right place when the door gets there. This is the door of *until*. What's on the other side of *until*? The promises are on the other side. We must walk through the door that is coming in order to get to the other side of until.

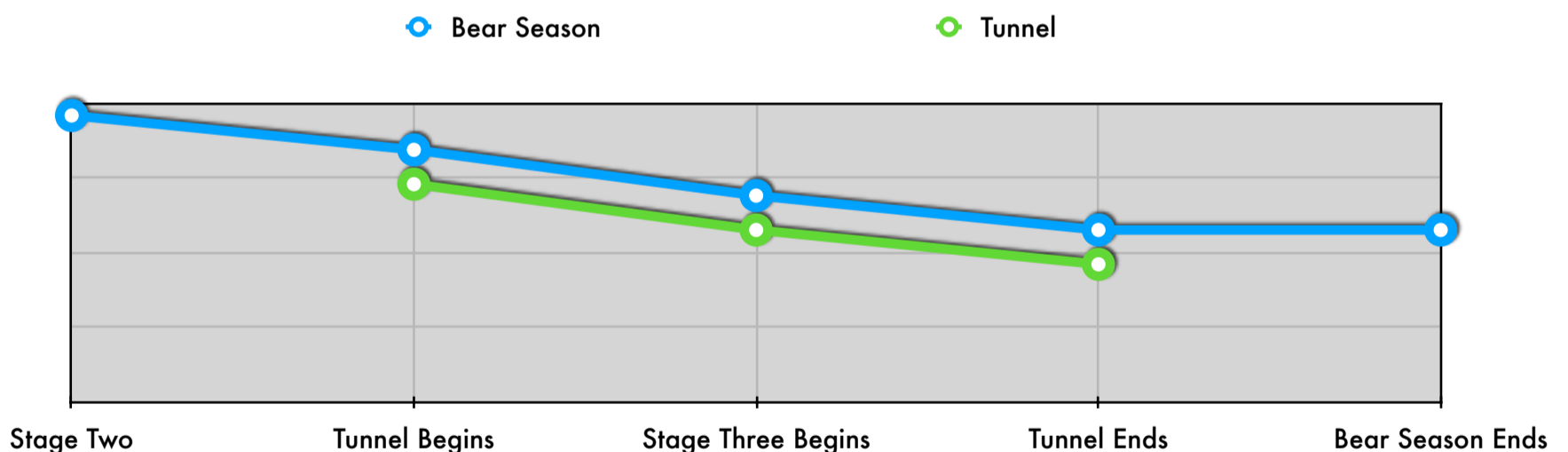
PHASE TWO

The Brown Bear

Galatians 2:20 NLT My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

As I stated at the end of the last chapter there is a door coming. It will be important to line up with the door. There may be some things which will need to end so that you can be lined up to go through the door. This door is an entrance. It is an entrance to a tunnel. The tunnel, like the bears, cannot be avoided. The bondservant on this journey is destined to go through this tunnel. This phase has more to do with the tunnel than it does with the bears.

This tunnel will last for a specific period of time during the overall season. The tunnel is strategically placed along the path. The tunnel can be compared to a dark night of the soul. This is a place of greater diminishing and further descent. What we don't realize once we enter this tunnel is that we are descending at a greater pace. It's hard to tell what is really going on through this season because the cover of night hinders our sight. The tunnel is the passageway God has designed for us to traverse during in this leg of the journey. It's the only way to get to the other side.



The Dark

The strategy is always to wait. It was wait through the first stage. It is wait through the second stage. It will be wait through the third. As we wait on the Lord for the fulfillment of our destiny it will grow darker during this stage. The diminishing is one thing, but to enter a dark tunnel in midst of this trial almost seems too harsh. But God knows the conditions through which He must take us to remove the obstacles in our soul.

Have you ever experienced a time when the room you are in so dark your eyes don't work? It's a bit freaky. It's like being blind. This will be a time of darkness, like when hobbits Frodo and Sam walked through Mordor to destroy the ring¹. This is a quest. It's a quest and a mission. And during this time of darkness that it will be important to remember that the quest is bigger than us. This isn't just about our personal lives. There is a bigger purpose at work here. At the same time a very personal work is being done. But just as Frodo and Sam had to depart from the small band of companions to finish their quest some will have to separate even more than they had before.

Parts of this journey are incredibly hard. There will be times when you might feel tempted to quit. Don't worry. God will bring you safely through this. He has a plan. He has a purpose. It may be like walking through the depths of hell at times. Somehow the grace to get through will be there.

Remember that at times there will be some relief. There will even be times when it seems as if it's over. Take heart in knowing that God will send whatever help is necessary to see us through. Because this season is dark and the tunnel unsettlingly God knows that we will need extra care during this time. He will send help. It may however, not come packaged the way we want it to. There is still quite a ways to go yet. Getting to the end of the tunnel is not the end of the season. We want it to be. But it isn't. There's still more to come. At some point during the dark trek through the tunnel the third and final stage of this process will begin.

A Vision of the Tunnel

In 2009, just a few months after the first bears dream, I had a vision. In the vision I saw an aerial view of tunnel. At first I saw a small company of people exiting this tunnel. As I watched these scraggly looking individuals exiting it was quickened to my spirit what they had just experienced. Below is what was given to me at the time concerning the company of people I saw emerging from the tunnel:

This tunnel had been place of extreme adversity. At times it even felt like a prison. They have felt so confined in these circumstances that they just can no longer imagine the word of the Lord over their lives ever coming to pass. While in the midst of difficult circumstances the Lord has been extracting issues from their soul that have been a hindrance to them. God has been purifying them. It has been a time of severe testing, much like that which was told to the church of Smyrna in Revelation 2.10 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold the devil is about to cast

¹ This is a reference to characters in the book [The Lord of Rings](#) by JRR Tolkein

some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.'

The "ten days" and "enduring unto death" is symbolic of absolute completion. It is exemplified by Galatians 2.20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." This amazing company of people have come to a place of knowing they are nothing without Christ. For them this is no longer something they simply studied in the scriptures it has become a living reality.

They wear a mantle of humility. Yet they will carry the weight of the authority of heaven. They will not be self-promoters. They will, however, walk in a boldness that has rarely been seen since the early church. Their creed will be one of love, faithfulness to God and devotion to one another. There will be unity among them. At the same time there will be diversity as never before. Each will be unique in expression and dispensation of gifting. They will be marked by holiness unto the Lord, true liberty in the Spirit and a joy that cannot be contained.

These dear ones have paid a price to carry the mantle of glory that they will now possess. The light that emanates from them is intensely bright. They will tell you plainly that any "light/glory" you see is that of their Lord Jesus and not from them. The price that they have paid is the crucifixion of their flesh. They have lost everything. They have been stripped of everything in this world that they held dear. Some of that stripping has included the death of loved ones; husbands, wives, children, parents, and close friends. Some have lost homes, jobs, and dignity. All have lost more than most of us can even imagine.

There is something, however, that some in this emerging group of people is experiencing as they emerge. Some think that because their responses have not always been what they thought it should be that they have now been disqualified. Some are so hurt and discouraged that they think they will not fulfill what God has ordained for them. Some have lost hope to the point that they believe nothing will ever change. But it simply is not true. It is a deception of the evil one making a last ditch effort to get them to give up seconds before they emerge from the tunnel.

RUDIMENTARY TIMELINE SKETCH

The Hebraic Calendar

In this chapter I elaborate on the revelatory insight the Lord gave me through the picture of the the Hebraic calendar. Some people don't give a hoot about the Hebraic calendar. And that's okay. You don't have to care. You don't have to believe it's relevant. It is, however, the imagery the Lord used to communicate to me particular prophetic pictures and insight that apply to this season as a whole and in particular to the tunnel.

This next bit isn't easy to say. It's even harder to hear. This season of testing and trying associated with the bear seems to be connected with each Hebraic decade. When I first wrote this message, were approaching a decade change on September 30, 2019. That was the easy part. The hard part is that it last throughout the decade and conclude around the end of the decade. Take a minute to let that sink in. Yes, I am implying that the season of the bears will last at least ten years. If I had known that at the front end of this experience I don't know if I would have had the courage to face this. I have struggled with sharing this point. I don't want it to be true. Unfortunately, I know it is. In order to relay details about the tunnel I can't avoid it. I'm sorry.

Hebraic Numbers

For those who are unfamiliar with Hebrew here is a quick lesson. Hebrew letters are also numbers. The letter א (aleph) is also the number 1. The letter ב (bet) is the number 2, and so on. See chart on next page. Characters are combined/calculated to create larger and more complex numbers. For instance. 700 would be written תש (tav ת, ק) (ש=300 and ת =400)

Writing the Hebrew year

The Hebrew calendar year begins on Rosh Hashanah, Tishri 1, which occurs in either September or October. The year 2019 according to the Gregorian calendar is (for most of the year) the year Hebrew year 5779. When writing the year in Hebrew the 5000 is dropped. I began writing this in the year 5779 or תשע"ט. (the " indicates this is a date). September 26, 2022 the year changes to 5783. 5783 is written תשי"ג. [ת=700, [ת400+ש300+פ80+ג3=783].

Symbolism

Hebrew characters contain symbolism and spiritual meaning which conveys incredible revelatory insight. There is much that can be gleaned through a Hebraic approach to the

Scriptures. For now, I want to convey the basics and give a rudimentary understanding for those who are not familiar with Hebrew.

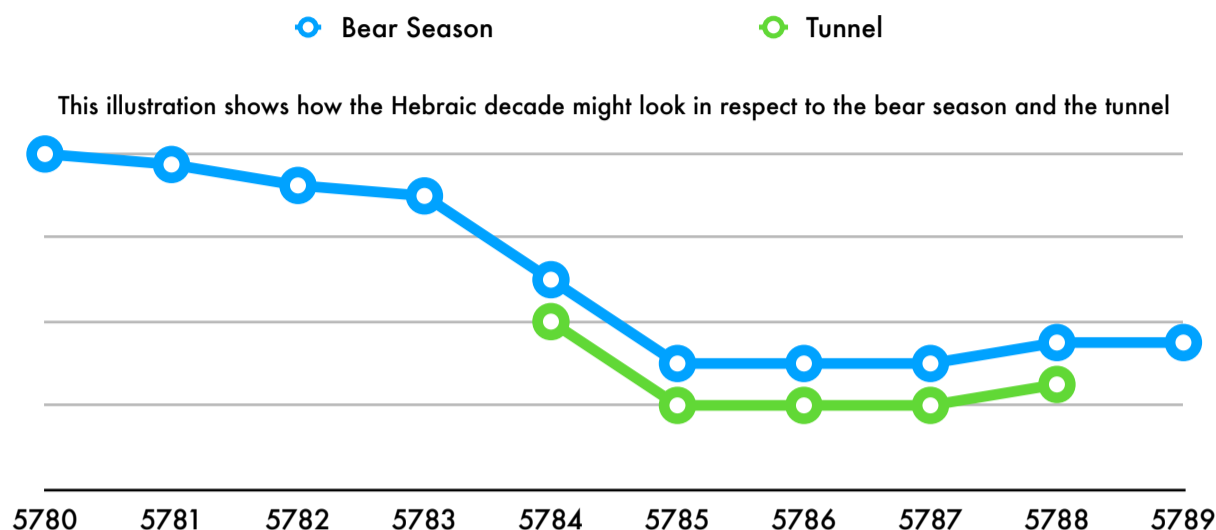
Every decade is characterized by the Hebrew letter for which it represents. The decade of 5770-5779 has been the Hebrew letter ayin (ע). On September 30, 2019 the decade changed to 5780. The Hebrew letter which characterizes the 80's decade is the letter peh (פ). While the ayin (ע) symbolizes an eye or a fountain, the letter peh (פ) symbolizes the mouth and blowing. (פ) also symbolizes an aperture or opening. Each year and decade builds on the previous.

Each year will have this overarching aspect embedded within it. At the same time each year will have its own unique quality which will be represented by the additional Hebrew letter.

5780 = תשי"פ, 5781 = תשפ"א, 5782 = תשפ"ב, 5783 = תשפ"ג, etc.

22 letters in the aleph-bet - Hebrew reads from right to left					
Hebrew	ה	ד	ג	ב	א
pronunciation	Hei	Dalet	Gimel	Bet	Aleph
number	5	4	3	2	1
<hr/>					
Hebrew	י	ט	ח	ז	ו
pronunciation	Yud	Tet	Chet	Zayin	Vov
number	10	9	8	7	6
<hr/>					
Hebrew	ס	נ	מ	ל	כ
pronunciation	Samek	Nun	Mem	Lamed	Kaf
number	60	50	40	30	20
<hr/>					
Hebrew	ר	ק	צ	פ	ע
pronunciation	Reish	Qof	Tsade	Peh	ayin
number	200	100	90	80	70
<hr/>					
Hebrew				ת	ש
pronunciation				Tau	shin
number				400	300
<hr/>					
<i>Five letters take on a different form when used at the end of a word</i>					
Hebrew	ן	ף	ן	ם	ך
pronunciation	Final tsade	Final peh	Final nun	Final mem	Final kaf
number					

Let's look again at the chart for the tunnel as it might play out during the peh (פ) decade. The blue line is the bear season, the green indicates the tunnel.



This transitional entrance to the tunnel happens during 5784 (פד). The dalet (ד) not only is represented by a door but can also be viewed as a force which moves us from one state of being to another. By the time we transition from the dalet (ד) to the hei (ה) we have entered the deep recesses of the tunnel. 5788 the chet (ח) will be a time of transitioning out from the tunnel. At this point the end will be in sight. There will be a light coming from the end of the tunnel which gives hope and renewed faith to see this through. This tunnel period is rough. It is during this dark place when we also transition to the third and final phase, the third bear.

God's Reconstruction

The mere thought that this diminishing season actually goes on for an entire decade or longer can be a bit daunting. There's a lot to be said for ignorance being bliss. Sharing this aspect of the journey through the season marked with diminishing, testing and refining hasn't been easy. I almost didn't want to say this out loud. I hope I am dreadfully wrong. I want to be wrong about this. Unfortunately, I know what God has shown me. In order to be true to the message I feel I must disclose what I believe to be true. I believe this season marked by the three bears is at least a ten year process. I know telling you there will be a

extended delay before you begin to see the promises of God fulfilled is not easy to hear. Remember, this is a time of reconstruction. It takes time to do a complete rebuilding of our lives. And that is precisely what God is doing through this process.

When you are in the midst of a construction zone you know things are not complete. You can see the framework going in place. It's easy to tell when the outward work is obvious. You know you have to live differently, because you can see the work being done. But this is an interior work. This work is not easily seen. Keep in mind, this isn't a shallow work. There's an eternal work being done which prior generations did not enter into.

If you have ever had to have your entire home re-wired or re-plumbed you know that the work is behind the walls. You might not ever notice the significance of such a massive undertaking. The work that God is doing during this season is like having all the internal systems of a house redone. It's like gutting the structure to the exterior walls. On the outside everything looks the same. But inside there is nothing but empty space because everything that was once there has been removed so the new can replace it.

A Spiritual Teardown

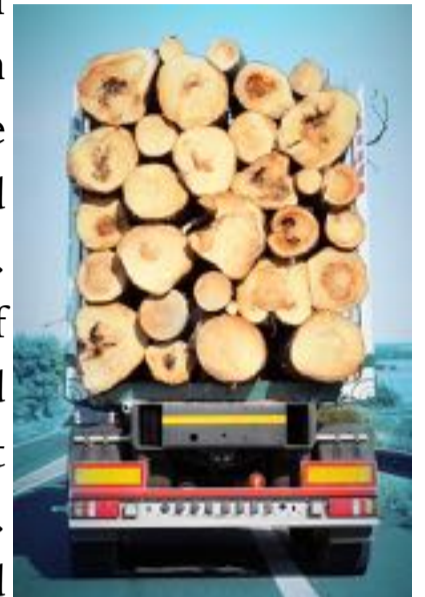
Several years ago I had an experience with the Lord. The only way to describe it is like an interactive vision. I was doing something completely mundane - laundry. I was in the basement alone. All of a sudden I had a vision. I saw a house. I stared at the house and watched as it was demolished. There was nothing left standing. It was as if a tornado or hurricane had come through and leveled the entire structure. I knew as I looked in horror at the debris that this was a picture of my life. I was devastated. Then, in this vision, I saw myself scurrying around with a claw hammer in my hand. I picked up a board and pulled out a nail. It was bent but I didn't care. I continued to pull out nails until I had a handful of bent nails clutched in my fist. I opened my hand and looked my collection. This was all I had left. I picked one up for a closer look. It had the word *love* engraved on the side. Another had the word, *goodness*, and other *peace*, and another the word *joy*. Each nail had something engraved on it. I was weeping uncontrollably at the thought that this was all I had left. Everything had been devastated. I held my little treasure tightly. These broken and bent versions of God's truth was all I that remained.



As I sobbed and looked out over the rubble suddenly Jesus stood in front of me. He put out His hand and asked me for my nails. I responded through tears, "But this is all I have left. Everything else is gone." Again, He asked, "May I have your nails." They were broken. They were bent. They were rusty. But they were mine. They were all I had. Even though they were

worthless to anybody else, how could I give Him the only thing I had left? He just looked at me with His hand held out. I dropped the nails into His hand. With that He was gone. I collapsed to the floor weeping. I could not imagine what it was that the Lord was requiring from me. What could this possibly mean? All I saw, at this point, was vacant land. Even the debris was gone. This was now just an empty space. I was as vacant as the lot before me.

As I sat on the floor, looking into this vision of nothing, I began to feel the floor beneath me vibrate like it does when a heavy truck or a train is going by. The sensation pulled on my consciousness. I assumed the spiritual experience was over. I stood to my feet. As I stood I could hear the familiar sound of the beeping of a truck when it is backing up. The sound was so close that I looked out the basement door to see if there was a truck coming into the backyard. It was then that I realized the vision was not over. In the Spirit I saw a truck. It was the biggest truck I ever saw. It reminded me of the logging trucks that haul trees. Only this wasn't hauling trees it was carrying steel beams. I watched



this truck pull up to the empty lot where my house used to be. I saw the arm of a huge crane grab one of those steel beams and swing it around. I watched as it was positioned. Then there was a powerful thud that shook me to the core. Then another and another until the mighty pillar had been pounded securely in place. Then Jesus, standing next me, said in my ear, "That's My love." With that, another steel pillar was pounded into place. "That's My



peace" with the next, "That's My joy." By this time I was weeping as uncontrollably as before. A new reality of His love, His peace, His goodness, was pounded into my being with the driving in of each pillar. I was so powerfully overwhelmed with the goodness and the love of God

that I melted to the floor in a heap. We have our version of what we think His love, peace, joy, etc is like. God's love for us is so much greater than our human minds can comprehend, the only way for me to convey the difference is through the imagery of this vision.

Why So Many Spiritual Illustrations

Simply put, word pictures lend to greater understanding. Some people are visual learners, others are auditory while others are tactile/kinesthetic learners. Tactile and kinesthetic learners absorb information best by doing, experiencing, touching, moving, or being active in some way. This includes about 5% of people. Auditory learners absorb information best through the sense of hearing. This is about 30% of the population. Making up about 65% of the population, visual learners absorb and recall information best by seeing. The way we

learn affects how we think, solve problems, relate to others, how we act in a group and how we work and communicate.

I am very visual. Yet, I learn through emotions, touch, movement, and space which is tactile. I also love to listen to stories. Most people will have some of each of these aspects as ways they take in and process information. The Lord knows us internally better than anyone. He knows exactly how to communicate to us in a way which conveys the subject so we understand and grasp things. Often I have found that I might have a dream (visual) about something then get word (auditory) from the Lord, and then go through a living experience (tactile/kinesthetic-touch/movement) which communicates the same message.

This season is complex and cannot be easily communicated. This isn't suppose to be a how-to manual for living through the season of testing and refining through the means of prolong and progressive diminishing. It is, however, intended to be a prophetic picture, a spiritual illustration, to help understand the season in which you might find yourself.

PHASE THREE

Another Dream & The Grizzly Bear

Just prior to entering the third and final stage, identified by the darkest and most scraggly looking bear, I had another bear dream. In this dream, I was in the attached garage of my father's house.

To put this in context, it would help to know that in my earlier dream, in which the three bears came up out of the river, it began with my father giving me the keys to his Lincoln Town Car®.

Bear Dream Two

In this second dream about the bears I was in my father's two car attached garage. In the space where the Town Car® is usually parked I was sitting in a lawn chair. A brown bear, (*like bear two from the first dream*) was asleep at my feet. We were waiting for someone to come and take the bear back to his cage. At the very back of the garage, in the space where the Town Car® was normally parked, was a large tarpaulin draped over something. My dad went to the back of the garage and removed the covering. Underneath was a black grizzly looking bear (*like the third bear in the first dream*) standing upright. It was motionless. I knew it wouldn't be still for long. The third bear was about to be released. I made my way inside the house before this dangerous animal was awakened and released.

More Repositioning and More Waiting

This third phase in many ways is the most difficult. It is important to be in the safety of the Father's house during this stage. The strategy was to wait out this part of the journey inside. Going inside indicates further confinement. The Father has provided a place of safety despite the fact that this bear is being sent out. God does not want to destroy us completely. He wants us to survive the days ahead. Yet, it is of vital importance to remain in the place which God has provided for us. Don't run. You are going to want to. Don't.

Immediately prior to the release of the third and final bear there is a time of relaxation. It is short lived but there is a bit of comfort and reprieve before the final stage takes place. During this reprieve it seems as if the diminishing might be over. The second bear is asleep. As I mentioned earlier, in reference to an extended secular bear market, there are times when it appears that things are improving. There is one of these short lived improvements prior to entering this final stage. These times of reprieve are vital to our making it through.

It is important to remember, while in the midst of the difficult times associated with the bear season, that God has planned these times of rest and rejuvenation.

Further Confinement

The imagery in the dream associated with having to go *inside* my father's house has to do with even further confinement. There is a restriction associated with this bear season. The bear season is very limiting. Having to remain in place can feel confining and restrictive. An aspect of this confinement can, at times, seem like being locked up in prison. Being in prison means you don't get to make simple decisions for yourself. You shower when you are told you can shower. You eat when and what is provided. Activities are severely limited.

Just as it is in the natural, there are prisoners who just simply do their time while others take advantage of what is made available to them. This might include schooling or learning a new trade. This waiting doesn't necessarily equate to being idle. The purpose of this season is transformation. Old things are passing away. New things, new paradigms, new skills, and new perspectives are being gained through this season. It will be necessary to seek the Lord for what He would have us to do while we wait out the confinement. The confinement is for our benefit, even if it doesn't feel that way. It isn't just about getting through. It's about being confined so the internal work of God can be completed. That might include learning something new.

This bear season comes with getting swiped at by the bear. There are times when it will become increasingly intolerable. It is during those intolerable times that we will have to remain resolved to stay in the situation in which God has placed us. The final stage won't be easy. Going into the tunnel before entering this final stage will make it easier, in that there is no way out. We have no choice except to keep moving forward.

This third phase begins with us in the tunnel. While the tunnel has a very specific purpose it does not detract from the overarching purpose related to the bears. The purpose of the bears is a diminishing. The *diminishing* is the means through which the testing and refining is occurring. The testing and refining is for the purpose of transformation of the soul. The transformation of the soul changes mindsets, paradigms, doctrines, beliefs and behavior. All of this comes under the big heading of *coming out of agreement with the god of this world and the world system*. All of this is related to the preparation of the bondservant/eved for the End Times dispensation which will ultimately usher in the Second Coming.

.....
The tunnel
has one
entrance
and one
exit.
.....

Keep Your Eyes on the Prize

It might be helpful at this stage of the process to keep our focus on the goal, which is the promise of God.

Phil. 3:13b-14 But this one thing I do: Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I keep pursuing the goal to win the prize of God's heavenly call in the Messiah Jesus.

The promise is related to our destiny in Christ as bondservants/eved to fulfill our calling as End Times carriers of the glory of the Lord. Ultimately, the prize is Christ. Jesus is our reward, just as we are His inheritance. The purpose of this whole endeavor is make His people into habitations fit for His glory. It is the bondservant of Jesus who will become the Tabernacle of the Lord. God is raising up the fallen tent of David in these last days.

Amos 9:11-12 ISV "At that time I will restore David's fallen tent, restoring its torn places. I will restore its ruins, rebuilding it as it was long ago, so my people may inherit the remnant of Edom and all of the nations that bear my name," declares the LORD who is bringing this about.

Acts 15:16-18 NIV 'After this I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things' — things known from long ago.

David's Tabernacle

Is it a tabernacle, tent or booth? The answer is yes; with a bit of explanation. The word used by the prophet Amos in reference to David's tent is the Sukkah סכּה. The word sukkah סכּה is the singular form of Sukkoth סכּה which is translated booths, as in the Feast of Booths. This can also be translated as Tabernacles. The Tabernacle of Moses was referred to as The Mishkan מִשְׁכַּן not a sukkah סכּה. David's tent was not the same as Moses' Tabernacle. During the reign of king David, the Tabernacle of Moses was in Gibeon. David brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem and set it up in a sukkah, a tent. The setting was entirely different than what had been dictated by God to Moses. One has to ask; why was David allowed to do something which in prior generations was not permissible? Additionally, why does the prophet Amos refer to the fallen tent of David rather than the Temple of Solomon or the Tabernacle of Moses? David had access and permission which others didn't have. David experienced a favor of God upon his life which others didn't seem to have. David referred to himself as God's servant (eved).

Psalm 86:16 Turn to me, and be gracious to me; Oh grant Your strength to Your servant (עֶבֶד), and save the son of Your handmaid.

The (עֶבֶד) eved/bondservant is one who has a heart like a priest before the Lord. David, has the heart of priest, someone who keeps his life consecrated before the Lord. Because of the posturing of David's heart before God, he is granted access which is denied to others. The priest is given access to what others are not. The High Priest has access which the priests do not.

David is not only a man after God's heart, but can also be viewed as a type of Christ. Christ is our Great High Priest (Hebrews 4:14, 8:1, 9 & 10) He is the One who went into Holiest Place and applied His blood to the mercy seat in heaven. The High Priest has access beyond the veil. Jesus made a new and living way of access for us. We can now enter that heavenly domain because of the finished work of the cross.

Hebrews 10:19-23 NASB Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

Raising the fallen tabernacle of David, I believe, has to do with being granted this heavenly access. The eved (עֶבֶד) with a priestly heart will have access to the presence of God and become carriers of His glory. These bondservants become living tabernacles with the abiding presence of God. They become sukkoth סֹכֶה, tabernacles of God among men.

The author of Hebrews continues in 10:24 *"and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,"* It is with the confidence of entering the heavenly holy place that we are to encourage one another.

Romans 8:35-36 NIV So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

There is a glory yet to be revealed in us. Paul wrote to the Romans:

Romans 8:17- 18 NIV Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in

his glory. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Yes, for now, we must endure a season of reduction and diminishing. We must be refined and tested before we can become containers of the glory of God. But oh, when that day arrives, what a day of rejoicing that will be.

EMERGING FROM THE TUNNEL

And Other Endings

Emerging from the tunnel will be another relief. Yet it will not be the end of the final stage.

.....
The Series
Finale
.....

There may be some movement and adjustments that are made during this time. Of course there is the great relief of just simply being out of the severe darkness of the tunnel. How much time before the bear season is over and the bull comes on the scene is yet to be determined. It isn't long. Emerging from the tunnel is the first sign that the end of this horrendous season is near. This will be when you begin to experience more relief. Another aspect of emerging from the tunnel is that the descent has leveled off. There is no more downward movement. The diminishing isn't getting worse. In fact, this is when hope for restoration begins to seep back in.

Exiting the tunnel is like coming up out of the grave. There seems to be upward movement. I would like to say it's like resurrection but at first it's more like being put on life support. The tunnel has drained anything remaining. The tunnel was a time of great diminishing. While the attrition has ceased, exiting the tunnel does not equate to an immediate empowerment. But the descent has stopped. There is no further descent. This is more of a leveling out before being lifted up. There is still a bit of a walk until this season accompanied by the bears is over. Coming out of the tunnel is the greatest relief of the entire season so far.

During the last remains of the bear season we will experience a trickle of life coming back in. Consciousness that this awful experience is almost over begins to creep in. Spiritual things which had been absent during the bear season has to seep in. There has been a great altering of perceptions in the tunnel. This has changed perspective on just about everything. I hesitate to elaborate on what that outcome looks like. It will be uniquely different for each individual. The process of the tunnel has brought about transformation. As much as it might not feel like it at first.

During this time, it is important to remember that removing the devourer must happen before going forward. The incremental influx of spiritual life coming in during this time is the much needed life support. This is the first hint that the long and difficult season of testing is coming to a close. Yet, it isn't over. The final days of this season of testing and refining through diminishing are coming to an end. We have entered the finishing phase of the building project God began in us. This is when we will finally see the capstone put into

place, so to speak. A new foundation has been laid. We have entered a final stage of construction. This is a time of completion.

Setting the Capstone

Zechariah 4:6-10 NIV - So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the LORD of Hosts. What are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain. Then he will bring forth the capstone accompanied by shouts of 'Grace, grace to it!'" Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house, and his hands will complete it. Then you will know that the LORD of Hosts has sent me to you. For who has despised the day of small things? But these seven eyes of the LORD, which scan the whole earth, will rejoice when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel."

Lord of hosts, Yehovah Tsabaoth, is still on the scene. God started a work and He is going to finish it. This work hasn't been done by willpower, human tenacity, fortitude or Christian discipline. This is a work of the Spirit. And the Spirit isn't finished yet. There is a completion that must take place. It is during this final stage after emerging from the tunnel that the finishing work can take place.

Great Grace

Why do some versions translate this verse as "with shouts of grace grace" while others translate it as great grace? The Hebrew word chen (חֵן) is translated as grace. In Zechariah 4:9 the word is repeated. When these ancient scrolls were written there was no such thing as *italics* or **bold** or underlining to draw attention or emphasis a word. When a writer wanted to emphasis a word one way to do that was to repeat/double the word. This doubling could increase the intention of the word such as Great Grace! Oh, yeah, there were no exclamation points either!!! Where am I going with this? Simply that just as the author of Zechariah indicated through the doubling of the word, it is going to take a double portion of grace to get through to the finale.

2580 [e] חֵן grace	2580 [e] חֵן of Grace	8663 [e] תְּשֻׁאוֹת with shouts
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Like the last few weeks of pregnancy this final leg of the journey can be a quite taxing. The shouting by the way is an intense crying out for grace! This isn't a shout like you hear at a football game or birthday party. This is a thunderous cry for help!!! This is a noise, like the

roar of an intense storm. This is a gut wrenching cry. This isn't a superficial request. This cry is one that comes from the depths. This isn't just a cry for help. It is a plea for grace because grace is the only means that will get us through. Relief does not come through anything we can acquire in our own strength. It is not by might. It is not by power. It is only by the Spirit. It is only by His Grace. In this final stage, we are more dependent upon and in desperate need of God's grace than ever before.

It is in this final stage that we come to the place of recognizing, like the apostle Paul, there is no good thing within me. (Romans 7:18) Only God, by His Spirit, can bring about the promise. There is nothing that I can bring to the table that will make me qualified for what God is getting ready to do. I am merely a yielded vessel. I am empty.

Being empty is good. It doesn't feel good. But it is a good place because God can fill an empty vessel. All we wait for now is for the devourer to be removed so we can be filled with the promise of God.

THE BULL WILL DEPOSE THE BEAR.



Hold on it's almost over. The bull *will* depose the bear. Restoration is coming. Wait for it, it will come. At this point we are weary and drained from extreme weakness and severe limitations. All we want is to move on, get out and go forward. We have been knocked with one hard blow after another. The paw of the bear has bashed us around quite a bit.

The fact that we have survived is testament to the faithfulness, and grace of God. We may not be at full strength just yet, but life is slowly returning. We might feel things getting ready to flow again. God has not forsaken us. He is with us even though it hasn't felt like it. This bear season has been difficult, to say the least. And God is going to restore. For the moment, however, the word is be patience. Don't lose hope. There is a blessing that I have been reciting as I emerge from the bear season. It's called the Shehecheyanu blessing. Shehecheyanu means: *Who has given us life.*

The Shehecheyanu prayer is a special Jewish blessing. The blessing of Shehecheyanu is recited when one is doing or experiencing something that occurs infrequently. It is spoken in thanks when one is experiencing something for the first time.

Hebrew Transliteration: Baruch atah, Yehovah, Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higiyanu laz'man hazeh.

Translation: **Blessed are You, Lord God, King of the eternity, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season.**

Coming out of the bear season is definitely a time to give a special thanks to God for seeing us through. Getting through this alive is a big deal.

Wait It's Coming

James 4:1-10 NASB - What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; so

*you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: **“He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us”**? But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, **“GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.”** Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.*

Wait. It is coming. Those who wait on God will experience the awakening. God will breathe new life into us. We will be lifted up again. And there will be a rising up in a way we have never known before. We will ascend in ways which we have not ascended in the past. There is a slow awakening, at first. There can be frustration in that this isn't happening faster. However, it is happening. We need to be even more patient through these final days of the process.

God Is Not Mad

Don't worry about your devotional life. Don't worry about what God thinks about you falling asleep and being so numb. **GOD IS NOT ANGRY WITH YOU.** He never has been. This has been a difficult and wearisome season. There isn't much left to hold on to. Yet some life is beginning to come back in. During this part of the process there is evidence that life is beginning again. The great restrictions of the tunnel are fading. The final steps of this last stage are preparing us for the shift that is coming. The big shift will be when the bull fully comes on the scene. But there will be some smaller shifts toward the end of the final stage.

Insight and Planning for What Is Next

Waiting for the bull includes receiving insight into what is coming next. It is during these last remaining days while we wait for the arrival of the bull that we begin to receive insight into our calling and destiny once again. God begins to breathe new life into old promises. Now that paradigms have been shifted and mindsets have been altered the call and destiny take on an aspect which we could not have conceived before now. Nothing is what we thought. Yet we will be receiving instructions which will point toward a new beginning.

The future looks entirely different than we thought when we first received the promises. Not only has our perspective changed, everything about us has been altered. We are not the same as when we entered this season. It is at this point that we begin to see the wisdom of God for bringing us through this inconceivable delay. Insight trickles into our awareness in a way which we were formerly unable to receive. Enlightenment on the calling of God illuminates our understanding. We can begin to see where we need to go, what we need to do and how we need to do it. This is a time for receiving fresh insight into the destiny call of God. We won't have to strain to receive it. It will come in ways we don't expect.

It won't feel like our destiny has been released, but it is. It is in the final stage of the bear, while we are still in a place of diminishment and depletion, that God will call on us to make steps toward actually stepping into the destiny He intended all along.

REBUKING THE DEVOURER

Jeremiah 30:16-17 Therefore all who devour you will be devoured; and all your adversaries, every one of them, will go into captivity; and those who plunder you will be for plunder, And all who prey upon you I will give for prey. For I will restore you to health and I will heal you of your wounds,' declares the LORD, 'Because they have called you an outcast, saying: "It is Zion; no one cares for her."'

The Bull Will Rebuke The Devourer

It is the bull who will overthrow and depose the bear, *the devourer*. Wait for it. It will come. We cannot remove the devourer. Only God can do that. And He will. It has been His intention to do so all along.

While it may seem nearly impossible at this point to even imagine what life would be like without diminishing and loss, change is coming. Because this season of diminishing has been so thorough it is hard to picture life as being any different. But restoration is coming. Healing is coming. The promises are coming. When the bull comes on the scene He will bring everything He has promised with Him. The camels, laden down with all the necessary supplies are coming. But *who* is the one who rebukes the devourer?

Yehovah Tsabaoth, the Lord of Hosts

The bull is a picture of Yehovah Tsabaoth, the Lord of hosts. Yehovah Tsabaoth, the Lord of hosts, is the One who will rebuke the devourer.

Malachi 3:11 "Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the LORD of hosts.

God as pictured by the bull, is the One who will lift us up. He is the One who rebukes the devourer and restores what has been stripped away.

Psalm 3:1-3 Lord, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me! Many are saying of me, "God will not deliver him." But you, Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high.

Psalm 30:1 I will extol You, O LORD, for You have lifted me up, And have not let my enemies rejoice over me.

Joel 2:25 "Then I will make up to you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the creeping locust, the stripping locust and the gnawing locust, My great army which I sent among you.

Psalm 126 will be an anthem of the bondservants when the Lord restores.

When the LORD brought back the captive ones of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with joyful shouting; Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us; We are glad. Restore our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the South. Those who sow in tears shall reap with joyful shouting. He who goes to and fro weeping, carrying his bag of seed, shall indeed come again with a shout of joy, bringing his sheaves with him. (NASB)

There is a seed which had to fall to the ground and die during this diminishing season. That seed was the life of the bondservant/evad. We follow Jesus to the cross. Our life goes into the ground during this diminishing season of testing and refining.

John 12:24-26 "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. "He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

There is a harvest coming. That harvest is one of the Spirit. We are seed that must go into the ground. God is raising up a company of believers who have been tried and tested. He is

doing a major work of refining and testing, so that this company of believers can contain the promise of heaven and fulfill the destiny of God upon their lives.

1 Cor. 15:42-44 NASB - So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

It is with great rejoicing that we will welcome the coming of the bull; Yehovah Tsabaoth. This has been a ten-twelve year season of submitting to the Lord of hosts. We have been circumcised by His sharp sword, the word of His mouth. It is the Lord of hosts who will come now to rebuke the devourer and restore us. He will lift us up and catapult us into our destiny.

CONCLUSION

Amos 3:7 Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.

The purpose of this book has been to release a prophetic word to the bondservants/evedim of the Lord. This word is about preparing the End Times Army of God. All of heaven is making preparations for the Lord's return. When exactly that is going to take place we cannot know for sure. However, the Lord is leaking End Times plans to His servants the prophets. Strategic preparations are in the works. I don't believe this is some kind of cosmic chess game with humans as game pieces. This isn't a game. This isn't merely a prophetic exercise. This is about the very real expectation that one day the Lord *will* return. There is much in the way of preparation that must be accomplished so that the people of God will be in position and properly prepared and equipped.

Those who have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying are responding to the call. People are leaving organized religion in droves in search of something more meaningful. People are hungry for God, the Living God. Yes, there are some who are seeking only manifestations, but there are those with a sincere heart seeking God and following Jesus. They are from every sect of Christianity. These End Times bondservants/evedim of the Lord. They do not adhere to the doctrines of the men. Neither do they attempt to preserve traditions. A great move of the Spirit is bringing people out of allegiance with religion and into the Kingdom of God. God's End Times strategy will usher in a new dispensation and ultimately the Messianic Era and reign of Christ in the earth.

The Tabernacling Presence of God

In order for the people of God to become the tabernacle of God among men they must become a people of habitation, a people of the Presence. In order to be a tabernacle which can house the presence of God there is much internal work which needs to be accomplished within us.

.....
Salvation is a free
gift. Maturity and
destiny fulfilled
are not
guaranteed.
.....

Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God

Not everyone fulfills the call of God upon their life. No one can take your destiny from you. It can be relinquished. When the interest of man usurps the interest of God in our lives we stand on the precipice of losing out on the fulfillment of our destiny in God. In order to

fulfill God's agenda we have to relinquish our own agenda. God isn't going to empower us to establish our own kingdom. He is establishing *His* kingdom. God's domain is governed by God. It functions according to His rule and His order. If we want to be involved in this End Times work we must not only abandon establishing our own kingdom we must stop trying to establish God's kingdom with *our* earthly material. We cannot build the kingdom of God while adhering to the traditions and history of the compromised church.

This End Times strategy has to do with the Lord taking up residence within a company of people. That can only happen as we are made into vessels fit for His glory. We can try to come up with religious answers that might fit our logical and analytic paradigms. But that won't make us fit by God's standards. He isn't looking for a logical response. He is looking for someone who is willing to live their life in obedience and surrender to Him. We need to be able to follow the instructions of the Lord, not the dictates of society, family, friends or the church.

Having said that, we cannot do our own will under the guise of saying, "The Lord made me do it." We cannot use God as an excuse to harm others. I do not advocate violence or abuse on any level. So, NO, I am not saying people have license to do whatever they want and call it God. As the Apostle Paul would say, "May it never be!"

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Romans 8:28-39 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or

distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, "For your sake we are being put to death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hebrews 10:32-39 Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For, "In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay." And, "But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back." But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

A Repeating Pattern

This season of diminishing, followed by being lifted up, including the tunnel, will be a repeating pattern every decade from now until the Lord returns. Each new Hebraic decade there will be a company of bondservants who exit, and another which will enter into this season of testing and refining through diminishing. And in every season marked by the bear there will be a tunnel to pass through. While this is a repeating pattern, no one will have to go through this process more than once. This process is reserved for the bondservant. Once the bondservant has been tried and tested there is no reason to continue.

*Isaiah 28:23-29 NASB - Give ear and hear my voice, listen and hear my words. Does the farmer plow continually to plant seed? Does he continually turn and harrow the ground? Does he not level its surface and sow dill and scatter cummin, and plant wheat in rows, barley in its place and rye within its area? For his God instructs and teaches him properly. For dill is not threshed with a threshing sledge, nor is the cartwheel driven over cummin; but dill is beaten out with a rod, and cummin with a club. Grain for bread is crushed, indeed, he does not continue to thresh it forever. Because the wheel of his cart and his horses eventually damage it, He does not thresh it longer. **This also***

comes from the LORD of hosts, Who has made His counsel wonderful and His wisdom great.

The Lord of hosts knows exactly when to stop the threshing. He knows when the testing and refining process is complete. He will not take this process one step further than needed. And He will not cause anyone to have to go through this process again. Once is all it takes.

When the season of diminishing is complete, it will be with great rejoicing that we greet the arrival of Yehovah Tsaboath, our glory and the lifter of our head. We will know that the work which has been accomplished has been at His hand. We will understand that there is nothing in ourselves which has qualified us for the destiny which He now thrusts upon us. It is with great relief that this testing and refining is over. We bid farewell to the bear. We had no idea that the bull was among us all along. We know, and yet we didn't know, that the Lord is the bull. He has been on the scene all along. We just didn't recognize Him while the bears were present. Now that the bears are gone, we can see with clarity the face of our Beloved once again. We saw in part. We knew in part. He has altered and removed mindsets, paradigms, doctrines, beliefs and behavior. He has done a work in the soul that could not have been accomplished any other way. We see differently than we did before. We understand things differently than we did before. Before, was before, but this is now.

And, now that He has come we see more clearly. We now say like Job:

Job 42:1-6 NASB - Then Job answered the LORD and said, "I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted. 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Hear, now, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You instruct me. I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye sees You; therefore I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes."

Wrapping It Up

Once the bears have been caged life will begin to take a turn toward the fulfillment of the promise. What won't happen immediately is a wham-bam instantaneous catapult action of being sent hurling into the fulfillment of God's word of destiny for our lives. Once the bear season has been completed there will be a time for gaining stability as we are gently lifted up. I know, I want a quick flip too. A quick flip is coming. But it won't happen immediately once the bears are gone. There is a destiny to fulfill which is yet to come to pass. After all it is the reason we have endured the season of diminishing. Empowerment is still to come. And it will come. Patience!

I don't want to be misleading. I don't want to leave people with a sense of being let down or put off. This season of diminishing has been absolutely vital for fulfilling the destiny call of God. It has been for the expressed purpose of carrying the deposit of God. There is a mandate upon your life. There is a commission to fulfill a very particular purpose. That has not been lost. Yet, at the very end of this bear season there will be a time which can be quite confusing. It is when we will incrementally experience tiny measures of increase. Because life will be coming back in, we are going to want to move faster and get things going quicker.

It's like coming back from an injury. If we try to do too much too quickly it can set us back. Even though the bears are gone and the diminishing has ended doesn't mean we are going to experience a sudden overwhelming turn of events. We will, however, be gaining strength and stability we haven't had in a while. It will be necessary during this final stage to be patient as things move slower than we might like. We are going to want this to get going. We will want to break out of the confinement and cast off all restraint. The enemy is going to work hard at this time to get us out of step with God's timing.

It's coming. Wait for it. It won't be long. But it will be necessary to let life come back in slowly. I don't understand God's ways. None of us does. But I do know that He has designed this season according to His wisdom and not mine. And His wisdom dictates that the transition from the bear season to bull season be gentle at first. The good news is that the increase and relief will remain.

I pray that God grant a great measure of grace to every individual going through this process. I pray that God give increase in understanding and great fortitude to the bondservants of the Lord who face the difficulty of being tested and tried in the furnace of affliction. May we be able to say like Job "But he knows where I am going. And when he tests me, I will come out as pure as gold."¹

¹ Job 23:10 NLT

THE AUTHOR



Betty Hall

Betty is a spirit-filled revelatory teacher with an Issachar anointing. Her prophetic mandate is to speak into the lives of the bond-servants (the evedim Yehovah) of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Ekklesia. Her revelatory messages can be found on her family of websites: [Beyond the Dalet](#), [Thru the Dalet](#), [Living Thru and Beyond](#) and [5700 & Beyond](#).

She challenges the Ekklesia of Christ to be conformed to the image of Christ as we develop our identity as the tabernacle, the dwelling place of God, in the earth.

And they are to make a sanctuary for Me, so that I may dwell among them.

[Exodus 25:8](#)

My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be My people. [Ezekiel 37:27](#)

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying: “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God.” [Rev. 21:3](#)

.....
The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make
his face to shine upon you and be gracious to
you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace.
.....

