



the proper time: *Suddenly*

“And Hezekiah rejoiced, and all the people, that God had prepared the people: for the thing was done suddenly.”

2 Chronicles 29:36

It is remarkable to consider how sunrises and sunsets, the changing of the seasons, planting and harvesting, and even a woman's monthly cycle are each reflective of God's keen chronology. Ecclesiastes 3 reveals that God regulates everything on earth according to divine times and seasons, perfectly orchestrating each set of circumstances to conform with His ultimate will and purpose. It is with trust in this sovereignty that we are empowered to walk by faith.

The Bible describes faith as “being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1) Contrary

to the notion that “seeing is believing,” faith requires us to believe first and see later—hoping and expecting until the moment of manifestation finally arrives. While it is an often challenging task, walking by faith keeps us humbled and disciplined—less concerned about what time we “arrive” as with the preparation that will sustain us once we get there.

This text is particularly meaningful because it shows that once the process is complete, God needs only a moment to turn entire lives and circumstances around. While the Israelites and their ancestors had spent years praying for God's deliverance, their breakthrough happened “suddenly”—quickly and without warning. The moment they'd been waiting for appeared at last, and they rejoiced that God equipped them for such a monumental miracle.

There are many more examples in the Bible of God “suddenly” coming through for His people, intercepting slavery, storms,

imprisonment, and illnesses of all kinds with a single stroke of His mighty hand. Whether it was liberating Daniel from the lion's den or healing blind Bartimaeus, the prerequisite for God's deliverance was always faith.

As you progress through 2007, hold on tightly to your faith. Allow it to lead and guide you through every set of circumstances you find yourself in. Live each day with confidence that this same God of the Bible is operating behind the scenes of your life as well. And finally, keep praying and believing, “for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9)•

Recommended Readings-- Ecclesiastes 3, 2 Chronicles 29, Hebrews 11, Matthew 8:23-27
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