

# **Seven Seasons of the Church**

Parallel the Seven Redemptive Gifts ~ Romans 12  
Arthur Burk – Plumblin Ministries

## **SEASON ONE THE PROPHETIC SEASON**

About 30 AD – 96 AD

Characteristics: Signs and wonders; beginning of the church; initiative of the prophet seen; desire of the prophet to go one step beyond Jew or Gentile; religious cultures on both sides. The prophet hates tradition; hates ignorance; is willing to stand in own legitimacy; defaults to faith.

## **SEASON TWO THE SERVANT SEASON**

About 100 AD – 400 AD

Characteristics: Great persecution; deepest passion of servant is to prepare a place for God and man to be intimate together; martyrdom, servant gift has highest authority over premature death. The more that died the more were born again because of the anointing of the servant; Constantine; catacombs. God redeemed intimacy and worship.

## **SEASON THREE THE TEACHER SEASON**

Dark Ages, Monastic Era About 476 AD – 1000 AD

Characteristics: Drab and grey; 600 yrs of inhuman behavior; great destruction of church literature in Europe; Ireland became new center for written materials. Teacher is concerned with legitimacy and truth of the message; monasteries became places of stability. Elitism – royalty vs commoners. God redeemed emotional history and groundedness of the church.

## **SEASON FOUR THE EXHORTER SEASON**

The Renaissance, About 1300/1400 AD to 1600 AD

Characteristics: Presentation; pomp and circumstance; abolition of elitism; institutional elitism; Martin Luther; John Calvin; Arch Bishop of Canterbury; great control of the Church of England; Birthing of many denominations for commoners. God redeemed music, dress, beautiful colors, pageantry developed in the church, 4 part harmony developed, beautiful buildings and cathedrals.

## **SEASON FIVE THE GIVER SEASON**

About 1797 – 1899

Characteristics: William Carey, father of modern missions; went to India and birthing of missions began; Moravians of Germany; triumph over nationalism; evangelism not rooted in politics; people heard directly from God through personal initiative. God redeemed personal initiative.

## **SEASON SIX THE RULER SEASON**

About 1900 – 2004

Characteristics: Church learned spiritual warfare ~ build and fight; forceful evangelism; religion, law and rules governed the church; 70's and 80's stressed unity; one stayed in their denomination; institutional unity; birth of intercessors; pastors initially very threatened by intercessors; intercessors began cross pollination across denominational lines which has enriched the church; different streams began to emerge; defeat of tribalism in the Body of Christ; emergence of phones and internet gave way for communication of horizontal nature; initiative in the marketplace and it became acceptable to take faith into the business marketplace. Businessmen became legitimized in the church. God redeemed unity in the church.

## **SEASON SEVEN THE MERCY SEASON**

February 2004 to Jesus' return

Characteristics: The greatest season of all; Intimacy with Father and the message of Father's love will be predominate characteristic; people will smell the fragrance of Christ; those who get saved in this season will largely reject the religion of the Ruler Season; believers seeking intimacy with Father will find peace and rest which will crush chaos. God is redeeming the culture changing it to release the line between sacred and secular.

**Jesus will return!**