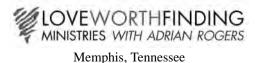
## God's Hidden Treasures

### Adrian Rogers

# God's Hidden Treasures

Biblical Wisdom for the Seasons of Life



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#### INTRODUCTION

Like a finely tuned clock, seasons come and go, easing from summer sunshine to autumn harvests, to wintry snowfalls and spring planting. Over and over through the years, we witness the pattern of birth, growth, rest, and renewal.

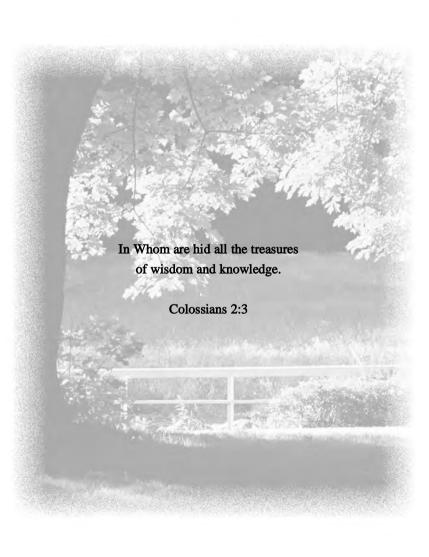
God not only governs nature, He nurtures our growth as well. In our lives we experience times of maturing as well as times of dormancy and refreshment. These are the <u>seasons</u> of life. Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

Sometimes, circumstances give us reason for extreme joy, while at other times, we may experience despair like never before. What we do and who we look to throughout these changing seasons are critical to our spiritual vitality. Focusing on God as the Lord of our lives is the theme of this book. Only in Him can true joy and peace be discovered and maintained. Unearth the treasures of wisdom and inspiration offered within these pages.

May you be blessed by *God's Hidden Treasures: Biblical Wisdom for the Seasons of Life* and encouraged to make the God of the universe the primary focus of your days!

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up...a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh...A time to get, and a time to lose...A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak... a time of war, and a time of peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:2-8



#### GOD'S HIDDEN TREASURE

Many, many years ago, the Spanish Armada was sailing off the coast of Florida when a hurricane struck. Those ships, laden with millions of dollars in gold and silver ingots, went to the bottom of the ocean. The treasure had been lost, but no one knew exactly where the ships had gone down.

No doubt fishermen fished near Vero Beach in Fort Pierce, Florida, countless times over the years. They might even have cursed their luck when their lines got hooked on something below—because they couldn't see the lump of gold below them in the water.

Then, one day some divers said, "The ships must be around here somewhere." They dove down into the water and, after only a little searching in shallow water—so shallow that anyone who knew how to swim could have reached it—they brought up millions of dollars worth of precious metal. The treasure was found!

Today, a great treasure awaits us—a full and glorious life in Christ. If you sometimes feel like the fishermen who missed out on the treasure because they never contemplated what lay below, turn your eyes toward your heavenly Father and His Son Who died for you. As you look in His Word and talk with Him, He'll give you discernment so that you can see beyond your earthly hindrances to the treasure of life with Him.

And He arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still.

And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And He said unto them,

Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

Mark 4:39-40

#### "PEACE, BE STILL"

One night, Jesus was with His disciples on the Sea of Galilee. Suddenly, the wind began to blow, and the sky was filled with lightning. The sea began to churn and boil as the gentle winds turned into a cruel gale, tossing the disciples' fragile ship until it bobbed up and down like a cork on the water.

The disciples looked at one another in despair. Then, they turned to Jesus, amazed He was asleep, and woke Him up shouting, "Master, carest Thou not that we perish?" (Mark 4:38).

Jesus said simply, "Peace, be still." And as He said that, the winds ceased, and the Sea of Galilee became as quiet and calm as a baby sleeping on his mother's breast. The moon shone through the storm, and all was quiet again.

This world, dear friend, is headed into a storm; and the spiritual barometer is dropping. Our world will not know peace until Jesus, the Prince of Peace, comes and says, "Peace, be still." In the midst of chaos, those who have accepted Christ can have a peace that passes all understanding. It comes when we have faith in the all-powerful, faithful One. Have you given your life fully to Christ, Who brings peace to your life's storms?

[God] hath in these last days spoken unto us by
His Son, whom He hath appointed Heir
of all things, by Whom also He made the worlds;
Who being the brightness of
His glory, and the express image of
His person, and upholding all things by
the word of His power, when He had by
Himself purged our sins, sat down on the
right hand of the Majesty on high.

Hebrews 1:2-3

#### Who Is Jesus?

No one knows the exact date of His birth, yet that event divides all history into B.C. and A.D.

He never wrote a book, yet more has been written about Him than about any other person who ever lived.

He did not earn an M.B.A., a Ph.D., or an M.D. In fact, He had no formal education to bolster His résumé. Yet more schools, colleges, universities, and seminaries have been founded in His name than in the name of any other person ever born.

He's not a painter or composer, but He's been the inspiration for some of the greatest music, art, and poetry the world has ever known.

While He was on Earth, He was relatively unknown outside of His own friends and country. He never left His region of birth. Yet never before or since His lifetime has there been a person Whose worldwide impact can be felt more—even in our world today.

Who is this extraordinary person? The Lord Jesus—and there has never been another person like Him in all of history!

When you wonder, "Lord, am I making a difference in the world at all?" turn your eyes toward Jesus. Look to His example—the love and truth-telling He extended to others—because He always had their eternal best in mind.

Whosoever cometh to Me, and heareth My sayings, and doeth them, I will show you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

Luke 6:47-48

#### Answered Prayer

After a hurricane hit Miami, a woman wrote this letter to the *Miami Herald*, expressing her frustration at how she felt God had "jilted" her:

I've never believed in God or in prayer. I thought it was all superstition. But since the storm was coming, I gave it a try. I asked God to protect my house, but it got damaged anyway. So I just wondered, what you say about those who say they believe in God and prayer?

Soon afterward the newspaper printed the editor's response:

Madam, I don't know much about prayer either, but I think perhaps God was busy taking care of His regular customers.

God is not a glorified bellhop running up and down the corridors of heaven taking orders and trying to impress us with His efficiency in catering to our every whim. Neither is He a sanctified Santa Claus Whose sole purpose is to deliver gifts to our door.

None of us is exempt from danger; however, we <u>are</u> promised protection amidst the difficulties that come our way from time to time.

If you want God to answer your prayers, submit your life to Him as <u>Lord</u>. With that submission, God will provide His peace and joy to help you weather <u>any</u> storm that might arise.