

Ecclesiastes 3 - For Every Thing There Is A Season

Wednesday PM 04/22/20

Introduction:

Some people may be familiar with the words of **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8** but not know it is in the Bible. In a college speech class, I used this passage as a reading assignment. My fellow students' response was "You mean that is in the Bible?" The band called "The Birds" used these words to write a popular song called, "Turn, Turn, Turn." We want to use this lesson to look as some of the lessons in this passage.

I) Background and other Stuff

- A) There are times for certain behavior.**
- B) Life under the sun – means life without God.**
- C) Life under heaven – means life with God in view.**
 - 1. Life under the sun – is a pessimistic and dark life.
 - 2. Life under heaven – is a positive view of life.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:

- 3. "April showers bring May flowers".

II) The Seasons or Times of Life

- A) *Ecclesiastes 3:2a A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted;***
 - 1. Pessimistic view of life is we are all going to die and what's the use of doing anything?

2. Optimistic view of life is, there is a purpose for every season and we can find our purpose by looking toward God.

Psalms 90:10 The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away. 11 Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath. 12 So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

3. Even the most radical atheist admits that their life will end.
4. But a person looking toward God sees their life differently.

Ecclesiastes 3:21 Who knows the spirit of the sons of men, which goes upward, and the spirit of the animal, which goes down to the earth? 22 So I perceived that nothing is better than that a man should rejoice in his own works, for that is his heritage. For who can bring him to see what will happen after him?

B) Ecclesiastes 3:2b A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted;

1. Spring is generally the time to plant the garden but some plants grow better in early spring and some more toward summer. A good gardener knows when the right time to plant is.

2. Then there is a time to pluck what is planted – harvest what is planted or to actually pull up the plants.
3. In our lives it is important to plant the word of God and let it grow and time to reap the harvest.

1 Peter 2:1 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

C) ***Ecclesiastes 3:3a A time to kill, And a time to heal;***

1. A time to kill – time of war, time to punish the wicked.

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. 4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. 5 Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.

2. A time to heal – time to mend relationship, to be “peacemakers”.

D) *Ecclesiastes 3:3a A time to break down, And a time to build up;*

1. In remodeling one has to know when to tear down that rotten old building. In order to repair one has to sometimes go to the bones of a house.
2. We have to tear sin out of our lives.

1 Peter 2:1 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking

3. A time to build up our inner man, we are new creatures in Christ and our purpose is not to just cast off sin but to put on righteousness.

Acts 20:32 NKJV 32 "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

E) *Ecclesiastes 3:4a A time to weep, And a time to laugh;*

1. There are times of sadness in life and even heartbreak.
Romans 12:15b weep with those who weep.
2. When someone leaves the Lord, forsakes Him to go back into the world.
3. A time to rejoice – ***Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice.***
4. Birth of a new baby, being around good friends, going to worship God.

Ecclesiastes 3:4b A time to mourn, And a time to dance;

5. When the ark of the covenant was being brought into Jerusalem. **2 Samuel 6:14 Then David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod.**
6. Not to be confused with a modern-day dance but a dance before the Lord. One praising God, a dance of celebration.

Psalms 122:1 << A Song of Ascents. Of David. >> **I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD."**

F) **Ecclesiastes 3:5a A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones;**

1. A time get the stones out of the field. There are “stones” in our lives we have to get rid of.
2. And a time a gather stones – stones were often used to build fences or houses.

Ecclesiastes 3:5b A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing;

3. I think of funerals when hugs and I love you is often said.

Genesis 50:1 Then Joseph fell on his father's face, and wept over him, and kissed him.

4. Or seeing a good friend you haven't see for a long time

or saying good bye to someone you won't see for a long time.

5. There are formal settings when embracing is not proper.
6. A married couple embracing verses a man and woman not married embracing.

G) *Ecclesiastes 3:6a* NKJV 6 A time to gain, And a time to lose;

1. Gain (seek AV) – when something is lost and of value.

Luke 15:4 "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? 5 "And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 "And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!'

2. A time to lose.

Ecclesiastes 3:6b A time to keep, And a time to throw away;

3. There are things of value to us and we want to keep it, keepsake. The word of God.

Matthew 13:44 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

4. A time to throw away – there are worthless things we need to get rid of. The old man of sin.

Romans 6:6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

H) *Ecclesiastes 3:7a A time to tear, And a time to sew;*

1. Tear up that old garment and maybe use it to patch something else.
2. Time to simply repair and sew up that garment.
3. I tend to think of our relationships. Some we need to end and some we need to put forth the effort to repair.

Romans 12:18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

2 Corinthians 6:17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

Ecclesiastes 3:7b A time to keep silence, And a time to speak;

3. There are times we should not speak. When in anger, when tempted to gossip, when in the presence of God.

Habakkuk 2:20 But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him."

4. The children of Israel marched around Jericho for six

days in silence but then on the 7th they were to shout with a great shout.

5. Time to speak up – defending the word of God, teaching the lost, encourage others.
6. Sometimes silence is golden and sometimes it is just plain yellow.

J) *Ecclesiastes 3:8a A time to love, And a time to hate;*

1. We are told to love our enemies, our spouses, etc.
2. We are to hate every false way, everything against the will of God.

Ecclesiastes 3:8b A time of war, And a time of peace.

3. There were times when Israel was told to go to war and God would be with them. There are times we to understand the spiritual war around us.
4. There are times we are to be the peacemakers.

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

5. To go the extra mile of the way.

Matthew 5:23 "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 "Agree with your adversary quickly,

while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. 26 "Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.

Conclusion:

Man by himself tends to go from one extreme to another. God helps us understand the times we are facing and the proper response.