

**I. Time and Place - Eccl. 3:1-8**

1. A time for everything (**verse 1**)
  - the completeness of life
- Rea        -the “time for war and peace” (8) - make this work for me
2. Times:
  - A. To be born and die (**verse 2**)
  - B. Plant and uproot
    - these things are out of our control - mostly
  - Rea        -I think that is not what he had in mind... by free-will we plant and uproot
  - C. To kill and heal (**verse 3**)
    - self-defense - vs post war healing
  - D. To tear down and to build
  - E. To weep and to laugh (**verse 4**)
  - Rea        -inappropriate to tell jokes at the funeral home
  - F. To mourn and to dance
  - G. To scatter and to gather (**verse 5**)
    - gather stones and to scatter is to scatter them - to build a wall
  - H. To embrace and to refrain
    - sexual union and sexual abstinence
  - I. To search and a time to give up (**verse 6**)
  - J. To keep and to throw away
  - Rea        - a word for hoarding behavior?
  - K. To tear and to mend (**verse 7**)
  - L. To speak and to refrain from speaking
  - Rea        -we often feel we just have to say something when there is a time to be silent
  - M. Love and hate (**verse 8**)
  - N. For war and peace
- Rea        3. These “seasons” require God’s wisdom
  - A. To know which is “right” and appropriate
  - B. To know His will, and wisdom
- Rea        **Ideas and Questions:**
  1. The writer of Ecclesiastes is not saying that everything is relative - there is no right nor wrong
  2. There is a consummate wisdom with which we all ought live our lives
  3. There is a time to die... and there is a better world ahead
    - a time to sow and a time to reap

**II. Enjoy Life - Eccl. 3:9-13**

1. What do workers gain? (**Verse 9**)
  - frustrating because we work and it is easily and quickly gone - life is short
- Rea        -James calls life a “vapor”
2. The burden of God that He has laid on the human race (**verse 10**)
- Rea        -to know and wisely assess the times

- Rea            -the “burden” of acting or restraining from acting (free-will is a burden)
3. All are beautiful in their time
- Rea            -like the seasons are beautiful, even the dead of winter is beautiful
- Rea            4. Another part of the “burden” is that mankind can know and ponder these frustrations and inequities, and right and wrong (a moral sense), and timing  
                     -we often say “life is not fair” - very true but very difficult to “handle”
5. Its frustrating to understand so much of this but not comprehend the whole thing (**verse 11**)
6. Our writer sees this as reference to the fact that we cannot control life
- Rea            -better, we can see it but not understand it. We understand what would be fair and “right” but we realize that “true” is bigger and broader than any concept we can put on it.
- Rea            -to “fathom” is not to control but to understand
7. So there is nothing better than to enjoy life (**verse 12**)  
                     -make the most of your time
- Rea            -“don’t worry be happy?”
- Rea            8. You will not understand it all, therefore be happy in your good works and your toil while you have the chance - while you live  
                     Two parts to verse 12's wisdom:  
                     A. Be happy (content)  
                     B. Do good (the moral sense of things is not left out)  
                             -so “good” is seen as the best way to live life
9. Eat and drink and find satisfaction in what is your toil (**verse 13**)  
                     -these things are a gift from God to be enjoyed
- Rea            -do you find “satisfaction” in your work?
10. What God does will stand (**verse 14**)
- Rea            A. This verse is the other part of “there is a time for everything” - God has so ordained it - and everything He does is good and right
- Rea            B. All this is right whether or not I realize it
- C. And one motive in all this is that people will “fear Him”
11. **Verse 15** - God is control - of past, present and future
- Rea            A. He runs the show - He’s the boss  
                     This is a “lordship” issue - how important is that? Satan fell by saying “I will”
- Rea            B. We don’t understand His show, but that should not cause us to throw in the towel, or be angry
- C. It incumbent on us to just “trust God”
- Rea            D. The last phrase of verse 15 is important - He will judge the whole thing... if something seems unfair, it may well be unfair, but in the end He will judge it all
- Rea            **Ideas and Questions:**
1. You can “over think” life  
                     -you can leave God out of your thinking
2. In lusting after bigger, better, more we lose the pure and powerful satisfaction of the gifts God gives us  
                     -discuss where people find “contentment”

3. These last two verses are a statement of faith, even though we can't understand why  
He  
does what He does

Matt Capps, August 1, 2021