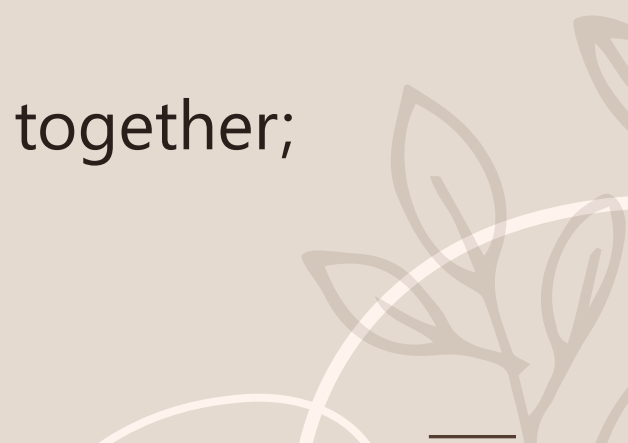




Time: Ecclesiastes (3)

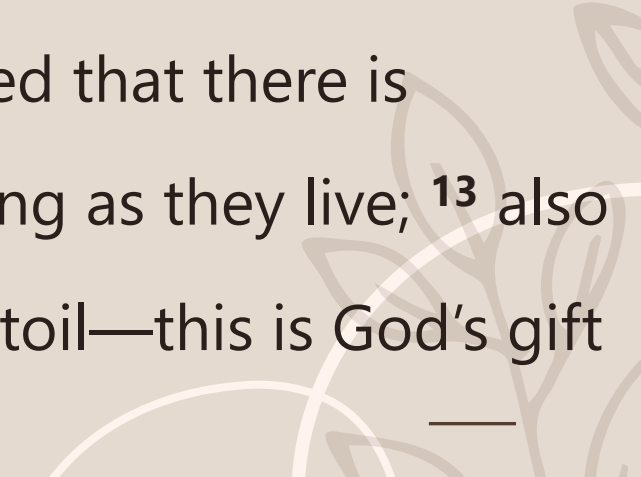
Ecclesiastes 3:1-22

Ecclesiastes 3

- ¹ For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
² a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
⁵ a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
- 

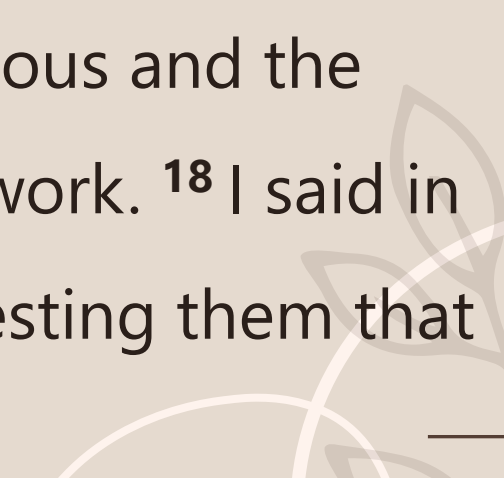
⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

⁹ What gain has the worker from his toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹² I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; ¹³ also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

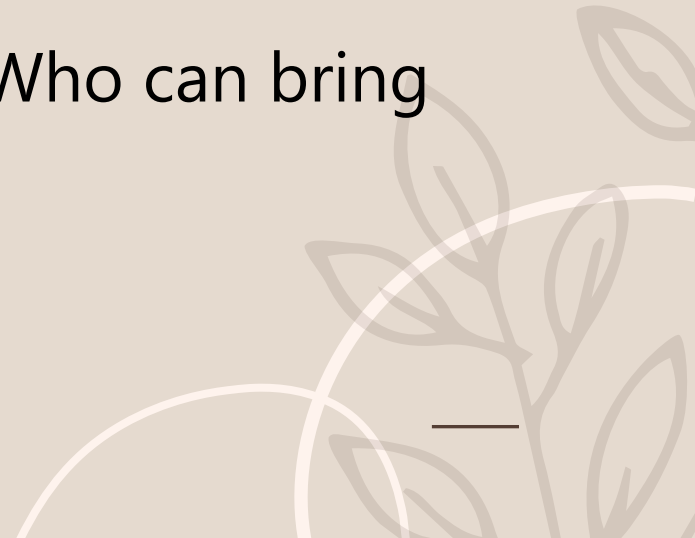


14 I perceived that whatever God does endure forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him. **15** That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.

16 Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness. **17** I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work. **18** I said in my heart with regard to the children of man that God is testing them that they may see that they themselves are but beasts.

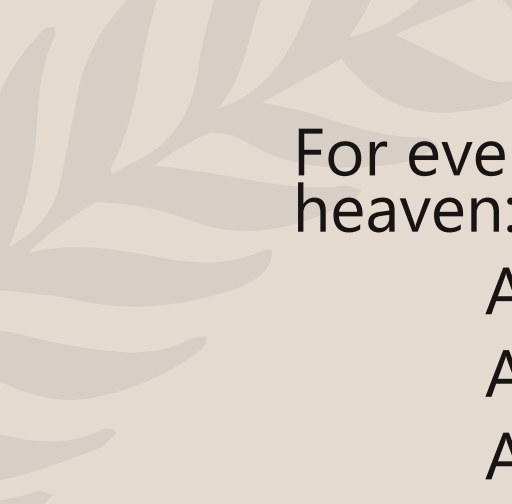


19 For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity. **20** All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return. **21** Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into the earth? **22** So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot. Who can bring him to see what will be after him?





This thing all things devours:
Birds, beasts, trees, flowers;
Gnaws iron, bites steel;
Grinds hard stones to meal;
Slays king, ruins town,
And beats high mountain
down.



For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die;

A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

A time to kill, and a time to heal;

A time to break down, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to seek, and a time to lose;

A time to keep, and a time to cast away;

A time to tear, and a time to sew;

A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

A time to love, and a time to hate;

A time for war, and a time for peace.

A poem about time

Our experience of time is:

- Seasonal
- Rhythmic
- Unpredictable
- Complex
- Relational





Four reflections about time

Four reflections about time

1) No gain or control in life

v9: What gain has the worker from his toil?

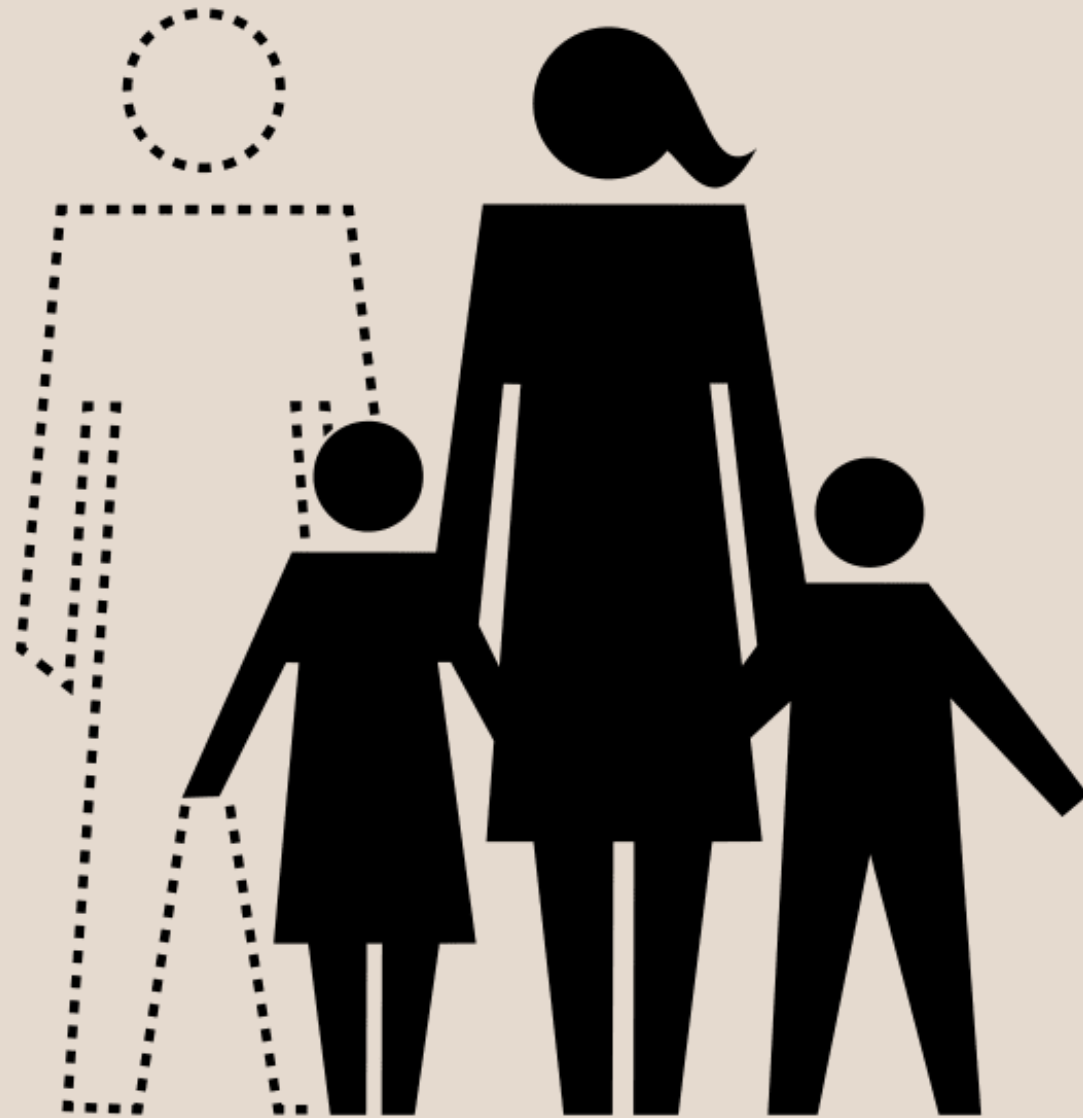
v10: I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with.



Four reflections about time

2) Beauty and fittingness in seasons

v11: He [God] has made everything beautiful in its time.



Created by Gerald Wildmoser
from Noun Project















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Four reflections about time

2) Beauty and fittingness in seasons

v11: He [God] has made everything beautiful in its time.

Four reflections about time

3) We long for more

v11b: Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from beginning to the end."

v22b: Who can bring him to see what will be after him?

“If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probably explanation is that we were made for another world.”

— CS Lewis.



Four reflections about time

4) A time for injustice and a time for judgement

v16: Moreover, I saw und the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness.

...the financial crisis
...Great Crash of 2008
...Disbelief, and a punter re...



Four reflections about time

4) A time for injustice and a time for judgement

v16: Moreover, I saw und the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness.

v17: I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work.

Four reflections about time

4) A time for injustice and a time for judgement

vv18-21: I said in my heart with regard to the children of man that God is testing them that they may see that they themselves are but beasts. For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity. All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return. Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into the earth? —





Four reflections about time

- 1) No gain or control in life
- 2) Beauty and fittingness in seasons
- 3) We long for more
- 4) A time for injustice and a time for judgement



Why is time like this?

Why is time like this? God made it this way..

v10: I have seen the business that **God** has given to the children of man...

v11a: He [God] has made everything beautiful in its time...

v11b: He [God] has put eternity into man's heart...

v11c: ...what **God** has done from the beginning to the end.

Why is time like this? God made it this way..

1) So that we would fear him

v14: I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him.

v15: That which is already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.

v11c: Man cannot find out what God has done from beginning to the end.



Why is time like this? God made it this way...

2) So that we would seek Him

v11b: Also, he has put eternity into man's heart...

“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.”
— Augustine.



Why is time like this? God made it this way..

3) So that we would understand that sinful man is like the beast

Verse 18: I said in my heart with regard to the children of man that God is testing them that they may see that they themselves are but beasts.

Verse 20: All are from the dust and to dust all return.

Why is time like this? God made it this way...

3) So that we would understand that sinful man is like the beast

Psalm 49.12: Man in his pomp will not remain; he is like the beasts that perish.

Psalm 49.15: But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me.

Psalm 49.20: Man in his pomp yet without understanding is like the beasts that perish.

Why is time like this? God made it this way..

- 1) So that we would fear Him
- 2) So that we would seek Him
- 3) So that we would understand that sinful man is like the beast



How then should we live in time?

How then should we live in time?

v12: I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

How then should we live in time?

1) Stop trying to control life and instead trust in God

v22: So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot. Who can bring him to see what will be after him?

How then should we live in time?

1) Stop trying to control life and instead trust in God

? Question: Is there something in your life that you are trying to control, but need to surrender to God?

How then should we live in time?

2) Accept the season of life you are in

? Question: Is there something in your current season of life that you need to accept?

How then should we live in time?

3) Fear God and do good, there will be judgement

v12a: I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live...

v17: God will judge the righteous and the wicked...

How then should we live in time?

3) Fear God and do good, there will be judgement

? Question: If you do not yet trust in the Lord Jesus for your salvation from the Day of Judgement, why haven't you?

? Question: If you call yourself a follower of the Lord Jesus, are you living a consistent life of repentance and good works as he commands?

How then should we live in time?

- 1) Stop trying to control life and instead trust in God
- 2) Accept the season of life you are in
- 3) Fear God and do good, there will be judgement