

ECCLESIASTES

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

“A Timely Eulogy”
Ecclesiastes 3





TIME UNDER THE SUN

For everything there is an appointed time, and an appropriate time for every activity on earth: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot what was 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 throw away stones, and a time to gather stones; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to search, and a time to give something up as lost; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to rip, and a time to sew; a time to keep silent, and a time to speak. A time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8



EVERYTHING:

*Season, Time, Event, Matter,
Occasion, Activity*

APPOINTED & APPROPRIATE:

*The proper, suitable, planned and
intended time*

ACTIVITY:

From Desires to Delights

ON EARTH:

Under Heaven



POETIC MERISMS

=

Two opposing poles, that include everything in between. These emphasize man's activities.



The poem reveals the great absurdity of life because each activity cancels the other out. There are 14 pluses and 14 minuses, and that adds up to zero. Every birth ends in death, every planted crop is pulled up, every building is eventually condemned, every celebration gives way to a funeral, and every peace gives way to another war
Nothing is gained.

- *Daniel Akin*



TIME WITH ETERNITY

What benefit can a worker gain from his toil? I have observed the burden that God has given to people to keep them occupied. God has made everything fit beautifully in its appropriate time, but he has also placed eternity in the human heart so that people cannot discover what God has ordained from the beginning to the end of their lives. I have concluded that there is nothing better for people to do than to be happy and to enjoy themselves as long as they live, and also that everyone should eat and drink, and find enjoyment in all his toil, for these things are a gift from God. I also know that whatever God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it, and nothing taken away from it. God has made it this way, so that men will fear him. Whatever exists now has already been, and whatever will be has already been; for God will seek to do again what has occurred in the past.

Ecclesiastes 3:9-15



ETERNITY:
*A sense of the future
and past, but an
ignorance of
knowing*



"Most people, if they had really learned to look into their own hearts, would know that they do want, and want acutely, something that cannot be had in this world. There are all sorts of things in this world that offer to give it to you, but they never quite keep their promise [...]

If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world."

C.S. Lewis



WHAT GOD DOES:

Is Permanent, Complete, Secure

THIS GOD IS:

***Sovereign, Providential,
Transcendent, Eternal, All-
knowing, All-Powerful***



The trouble for us is not that life refuses to keep still, but that we see only a fraction of its movement and of its subtle, intricate design. Instead of changelessness, there is something better: a dynamic, divine purpose, with its beginning and end. Instead of frozen perfection there is the kaleidoscopic movement of innumerable processes, each with its own character and its period of blossoming and ripening, beautiful in its time and contributing to the over-all masterpiece which is the work of one Creator. We catch these brilliant moments, but even apart from the darkness interspersed with them they leave us unsatisfied for lack of any total meaning that we can grasp. Derek Kidner



TIME WITHOUT RESURRECTION

I saw something else on earth: In the place of justice, there was wickedness, and in the place of fairness, there was wickedness. I thought to myself, “God will judge both the righteous and the wicked for there is an appropriate time for every activity, and there is a time of judgment for every deed.” I also thought to myself, “It is for the sake of people, so God can clearly show them that they are like animals. For the fate of humans and the fate of animals are the same: As one dies, so dies the other; both have the same breath. There is no advantage for humans over animals, for both are fleeting. Both go to the same place; both come from the dust, and to dust both return. Who really knows if the human spirit ascends upward, and the animal’s spirit descends into the earth?” So I perceived there is nothing better than for people to enjoy their work because that is their reward; for who can show them what the future holds?

Ecclesiastes 3:16 -22



UNDER THE SUN THINKING:

*Justice and Injustice commingle,
the unjust win*

He hoped God would judge

Who knows what is next

*Might as well try to find
happiness in this time*



**Ecclesiastes is not
so much about life
without God as it
is life without
resurrection.**

Chad Bird

We are completely known by God, but we cannot completely know the plans or purposes of God because we are not God. The mirror before our faces is murky (1 Cor. 13:12), and our window into heaven narrow.

What, then, should we do? Under the sunlight of God's sovereignty, we should be holy and happy. Rejoice in the Lord. Obey Christ's commands. Do good to others. Eat your roast-beef sandwich. Sip your Scotch. Smile, God loves you. Seriously.

Douglas Sean O'Donnell

ECCLESIASTES 12:13-14

Having heard everything, I have reached this conclusion:

Fear God and keep his commandments, because this is the whole duty of man.

For God will evaluate every deed, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.