

Ecclesiastes III
A Time to Every Purpose
Ecclesiastes 3:1-22

- I. THE KEY TO CHAPTER THREE (Ecclesiastes 3:1)
- a. To Every Thing There Is A:
- i. Season
1. Everything that happens in this life there is a season to it.
 2. Just like the weather we face in this world, our life too has its seasons.
 3. The word *season* is used 58 times in the Bible; 12 times in the plural.
 4. In the Bible the word can be used to refer to an actual season (Deuteronomy 28:12; Psalm 1:3) as we use it today. It can also be used to denote a set time for an event:
 - a. The Passover (Numbers 9:2,3; Deuteronomy 16:6)
 - b. The offerings that were to be given to the Lord (Numbers 28:2)
 - c. Israel's sojourning in the wilderness (Joshua 24:7)
 - d. Elisha with the Shunammite (2 Kings 4:12-17)
 - e. A time of trouble for David (Psalm 22:2-4)
 - f. The apostles and disciples when asking Christ about the Kingdom (Acts 1:7)
 - g. In expectation of a time (Galatians 6:9)
 - h. In preaching the word (2 Timothy 4:2)
 - i. Moses when deciding to suffer with the people of God (Hebrews 11:25)
 - j. The Devil and his short time (Revelation 20:1-3)
- ii. Time
1. The word *time* occurs 31 times in this chapter.
 2. 38 times in the whole book Ecclesiastes.
- iii. Purpose
1. We serve a God of purpose. Nothing is done haphazard. (Ecclesiastes 3:17)
 - a. When God created the Heaven and the Earth he did so with order (Genesis 1:1; 1:3-5)
 - i. The LORD will continue throughout Genesis chapter one doing things on certain days.

- ii. He creates the sea creatures and the winged fowl on the fifth day, and then on the sixth day he created the land animals and then He created man. (Genesis 1:20-23; 1:24-31)
 - b. The Coming of Christ
 - i. The fulness of the time was come (Galatians 4:4)
 - ii. To redeem them that were under the law (Galatians 4:5)
 - iii. That they might receive the adoption of sons (Galatians 4:5)
- 2. Our lives are subject to the purpose of God whether we like it or not.
 - a. Note: This is not to say we are completely bound to exactly what God wants and we can do nothing else. Which is a teaching of Calvinism.
 - b. Man does have a freewill. However, there are certain aspects of life that you have no control over.
- 3. There is a certain amount of purpose of God that you cannot get around. (Ecclesiastes 3:17; 8:6)
 - a. While you may have made some decisions in your life, there are some things that you didn't get to choose. Where you would be born. (Ecclesiastes 3:2) Who you would be born to. Who your parents would be.
 - b. Solomon is coming to the point that all things still come back to God and that you cannot do it on your own.
- 4. If you're to have any purpose in life it must come from God.
 - a. God had a purpose for Paul (Acts 26:12-18)
 - b. God has a purpose for the trouble that is allowed in the believer's life (Romans 8:28)
 - c. To serve Him (2 Timothy 1:9)
 - d. Our lives should be as such that it gives glory to God (Colossians 1:16-17; Revelation 4:11)
- b. Under the Heaven
 - i. Notice again that this all occurs "under the heaven" (under the sun).
 - ii. The things that are listed on the next page occur "under the sun."

- II. A TIME FOR EVERYTHING (Ecclesiastes 3:2-8)
- a. A time to be born and die (Ecclesiastes 3:2)
 - i. To be born
 - ii. To die (Job 14:14; Hebrews 9:27)
 - b. A time to plant, and a time to pluck up (Ecclesiastes 3:2)
 - i. Just like “a time to be born” there is a time to plant, a new beginning.
 - ii. A farmer will wait for the right season to plant his crops, and when Fall comes he will harvest (or “pluck up that which is planted”).
 - iii. Just like with birth and death a farmer cannot choose when everything will happen with his crops, he is bound to the seasons.
 - c. A time to kill, and a time heal (Ecclesiastes 3:3)
 - i. Just from a practical stand point there come times when something has to be killed.
 - 1. Think about an animal that has hurt itself beyond being cared for.
 - a. An animal that has acquired a disease that cannot be treated because it has taken hold of that animal (ex. Rabies).
 - b. An animal that has hurt itself beyond being helped.
 - 2. What about cutting down trees to make lumber for building?
 - ii. In respect to God being able to do the above notice the following:
 - 1. God kills and makes alive (Deuteronomy 32:39-43)
 - 2. Hannah when praying to God (1 Samuel 2:6)
 - iii. The King (Government) that hath rule over us, this is laid out in scripture.
 - 1. Noah and his children (Genesis 9:5-6)
 - 2. The Children of Israel and the Law (Numbers 35:16-22; 30-31; Deuteronomy 17:6; 21:9)
 - 3. New Testament – Government given rule (Romans 13:1-10); The law made for the unrighteous man (1 Timothy 1:8-11); One that kills is a transgressor of the law (James 2:10-11).
 - d. A time to break down, and a time to build up (Ecclesiastes 3:3)
 - i. One sees this in life; there are times when in building that it is better to knock an old building down and to start fresh with a new one.

- ii. We also see this in scripture where the Lord dealt with His people.
 - 1. Jeremiah the prophet with Judah (Jeremiah 45:1-5)
 - a. Jehoiakim had done evil in the sight of God as had also his fathers before him (2 Kings 23:36-37; 24:1-6)
 - b. What God had built with His people He was about to destroy.
 - c. Where He had planted them in the land He was going to pluck them up.
 - d. This had been foretold by the Lord to Moses and to Solomon. (Deuteronomy 29:1-6, 9-18, 22-28; 1 Kings 9:4-9)
 - 2. Nehemiah's building up of the walls (Nehemiah 2:17-18)
 - 3. The 1,000 year reign of Christ (Amos 9:11-15)
 - a. The Jew shall **build** the waste cities
 - b. They shall **plant** vineyards
 - c. The Lord will **plant** them upon their own land
 - d. They shall no more be **pulled up**
- e. A time to weep, and a time to laugh (Ecclesiastes 3:4)
 - i. Weep with those that weep, and rejoice with them that rejoice (Romans 12:15)
 - 1. In the above passage we are reminded, that as Christians we should have an affection for one another that the world cannot have. (Romans 12:10)
 - 2. As Christians we should have one mind (Romans 12:16)
 - ii. Christ while speaking to the Jewish people and His disciples (Luke 6:21) – “Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh.”
- f. A time to mourn, and a time to dance (Ecclesiastes 3:4)
 - i. A time to mourn (Ecclesiastes 3:4)
 - ii. A time to dance (Ecclesiastes 3:4)
 - 1. While many times dancing is considered to be a bad thing, and many times rightfully so. Consider the following:
 - a. The dancing that Herodias' daughter did for Herod (Mark 6:22) – this cost the head of a man of God.
 - b. The modern day dancing of today.
 - 2. There is some dancing that is described in the Bible that is completely pure and right before God and can be an expression of joy.
 - a. Miriam with the other women of the children of Israel (Exodus 15:20-21 – compare to: Psalm 150)
 - b. David before God (2 Samuel 6:15-19)

- g. A time to get, and castaway stones (Ecclesiastes 3:5)
 - i. At the stoning of Achan and his family (Joshua 7:16-26) – Stones used to execute a person.
 - ii. Joshua and the Children of Israel when they gathered stones for a memorial at the crossing of the Jordan (Joshua 4:3-9) – Stones used for a memorial.
 - iii. Jehoshaphat, king of Judah; Jehoram, king of Israel, and the king of Edom when fighting against Moab (2 Kings 3:20-25, see verse 19) – Stones used to destroy a land.
- h. A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing (Ecclesiastes 3:5)
 - i. There are times when it is good to embrace:
 - 1. A mother and her child (2 Kings 4:16)
 - 2. A husband and wife
 - a. The Lord gave commandment concerning a newly married couple on this matter (Deuteronomy 24:5)
 - b. Paul was clear about how a married couple should conduct themselves (1 Corinthians 7:5)
 - ii. There are times when it is good not to embrace:
 - 1. A mother and her child
 - a. There are times when a child does not always need to be embraced.
 - b. A child will need a balance of affection in their life.
 - 2. A husband and wife
 - a. There are obviously times when a husband and wife should refrain from embracing
 - i. Certain settings
 - ii. Certain circumstances
 - b. Again Paul was clear of these times (1 Corinthians 7:5)
 - 3. A man and woman
 - a. While there are circumstances where embracing (hugging) one that is not your husband or wife would be okay (i.e. sister, brother, mom, dad, grandparents, & etc). As a Christian you should be very cautious on your actions. (1 Thessalonians 5:22)
 - b. One that is not your spouse (Proverbs 4:8)
- i. A time to get, and a time to lose (Ecclesiastes 3:6)
 - i. There are some good practical lessons here:
 - 1. There are things that are good to get when they become available. Say a good deal on something.
 - 2. However, if that something you already have “tons” of, you probably need to pass the “deal” up.

- ii. We see in “a time to lose” some lessons of life; there are things that we need to give up in our Christian life; there may come times in your life where the Lord would ask you to lose some things for him.
 - 1. The Lord has asked us to sacrifice our desires for Him (Matthew 16:24-25; Romans 12:1, 2)
 - a. A living sacrifice denotes that it is a sacrifice that is not dead but alive. That is, it is not killed physically like the Old Testament sacrifices but is one where we sacrifice our wants and desires whether fleshly or otherwise for what our God wants for us.
 - b. The Psalmist David wanted to praise God with all that he had (Psalm 69:30-31; Psalm 34:1-3)
 - 2. We should want our lives to be acceptable to God; to do his perfect will. (Romans 12:2)
 - a. David asked for his very words and meditation to be acceptable to God (Psalm 19:14)
 - b. We (as Christians) are a spiritual priesthood, and are to give spiritual sacrifices (1 Peter 2:5)
 - c. A part of giving those spiritual sacrifices may include from time to time having to suffer reproach for our Lord (1 Peter 2:20)
- j. A time to keep, and a time to cast away (Ecclesiastes 3:6)
 - i. This part of verse 6 is very similar to the first part of the verse, however, this wording says “a time to keep” vs. “a time to get.”
 - ii. There are times when we should hold on to some things.
 - 1. The word of God (Psalm 1:1-2; 37:31; 40:8; 119:11, 97)
 - 2. A good tradition (2 Thessalonians 2:15) Note: there are bad tradition(s) that one should put off (“cast away”).
 - 3. The teaching of godly parents and instructors (Proverbs 1:8; 6:20)
 - iii. There are times, however, we need to cast some things off
 - 1. The works of darkness (Romans 13:12)
 - 2. The former things that were done by you as the old man (Colossians 3:1-11)
 - 3. And put on the actions of the new man (Colossians 3:12-14)
 - a. Mercy
 - b. Kindness
 - c. Humbleness
 - d. Meekness
 - e. Longsuffering
 - f. Forgiveness
 - g. Above all Charity (1 Corinthians 13:1-7)

- k. A time to rend, and a time to sew (Ecclesiastes 3:7)
 - i. The rending of a garment
 - 1. From a practical sense
 - a. Sometimes you might rend a garment and use it as a(n) rag.
 - b. Other times you might rend to make/turn it into something else.
 - 2. In Scripture
 - a. During a time of sadness/mourning (Genesis 37:29, 34; 2 Samuel 3:31; Esther 4:1-4)
 - b. During a time of trouble (2 Kings 5:5-8; Esther 4:1)
 - c. In Repentance (2 Chronicles 34:24-28 esp. 27)
 - ii. The rending of a place
 - 1. A kingdom (1 Kings 11:11-13; 31)
 - 2. The heavens (Isaiah 64:1) compare to: (Psalm 18:7-15; 144:5-6; Psalm 68:8)
 - a. The heavens are sometimes compared to a garment (Hebrews 1:10-11)
 - b. They (the heavens) were stretched out, just like a garment (Isaiah 42:5; 44:24; 45:12)
 - c. They shall be folded up, just like a garment (Hebrews 1:12)
- l. A time to keep silence, and a time to speak (Ecclesiastes 3:7)
 - i. Times to keep silent
 - 1. David in the midst of the wicked (Psalm 39:1)
 - 2. David asked for a watch to be placed before his mouth (Psalm 141:3)
 - a. Death and life are in the power of the tongue (Proverbs 18:21)
 - i. Life
 - 1. Life in the tongue (Romans 10:14-15)
 - 2. Edification from the tongue (Ephesians 4:29)
 - 3. Speech with Grace (Colossians 4:6)
 - ii. Death
 - 1. Unruly and vain tongues (Titus 1:10-11)
 - 2. Great swelling words (2 Peter 2:18)
 - 3. The tongue as a fire (James 3:6-9)
 - b. Every word spoken shall be accounted for (Matthew 12:35-37)

3. The woman to learn in silence (1 Timothy 2:11-12)
 - a. In the church (1 Corinthians 14:34-35; 1 Timothy 2:11-12)
 - b. To ask and obey their husband (1 Corinthians 14:35)
 - i. The order given (1 Corinthians 11:3)
 - ii. Submission to the husband (Ephesians 5:22-24; Colossians 3:18)
- ii. A time to speak
 1. Esther for her people (Esther 4:13; 7:4)
 2. For one that cannot speak for themselves (Proverbs 31:8-9)
 3. The apostles (Peter and John) preaching Christ (Acts 4:20)
 4. For the NT Christian as an Ambassador for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-20)
 - a. Given the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18)
 - b. As an Ambassador for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20)
 - c. To speak the truth in love, to edify the brethren (Ephesians 4:10-16)
- m. A time to love, and a time to hate (Ecclesiastes 3:8)
 - i. A time to love
 1. God loves his people (Israel) with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:1-4) Note: Lovingkindness of God.
 - a. The Lovingkindness of God (See Psalm 107)
 - i. To understand the lovingkindness of the LORD (Psalm 107:43)
 - ii. Oh that *men* would praise the LORD for his goodness (Psalm 107: 8, 15, 21, 31)
 1. Goodness – Character of God (who He is)
 2. Works – What He does
 3. God delivers because He is good
 - iii. Notice what God brings man through every time in Psalm 107. Note: He does this to get their attention (Notice: Psalm 107:6, 13, 19, 28), and delivers because He is good.
 - iv. Because of this, we can understand the lovingkindness of the LORD (Psalm 107:43)
 - b. God's love for the city (Jerusalem) where He has placed His name and the people (Israel) of it (Ezekiel 16:1-14)
 2. God loved mankind so much that He sent His son (John 3:16)