

### Ecclesiastes 3 A Time for Everything

There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every matter under heaven—

2 A time to give birth and a time to die;

A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted.

3 A time to kill and a time to heal;

A time to tear 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 throw stones and a time to gather stones;

A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing.

6 A time to search and a time to give up as lost.

A time to keep and a time to throw away.

7 A time to tear apart and a time to sew together;

A time to be silent 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 benefit is there for the worker from that in which he labours 10 I have seen the task which God has given the sons of mankind with which to occupy themselves.

### God Set Eternity in the Heart of Mankind

11 He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, without the possibility that mankind will find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.

12 I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and to do good in one's lifetime; 13 moreover, that every person who eats and drinks sees good in all his labour this is the gift of God.

14 I know that everything God does will remain forever; there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing to take from it. And God has so worked, that people will fear Him. 15 That which is, is what has already been, and that which will be has already been; and God seeks what has passed by.

16 Furthermore, I have seen under the sun that in the place of justice there is wickedness and in the place of righteousness there is wickedness. 17 I said to myself, "God will judge the righteous and the wicked," for a time for every matter and for every deed is there. 18 I said to myself regarding the sons of mankind, "God is testing them in

order for them to see that they are as animals, they to themselves.”

19 For the fate of the sons of mankind and the fate of animals is the same. As one dies, so dies the other; indeed, they all have the same breath, and there is no advantage for mankind over animals, for all is futility. 20 All go to the same place. All came from the dust and all return to the dust.

21 Who knows that the spirit of the sons of mankind ascends upward, and the spirit of the animal descends downward to the earth? 22 I have seen that nothing is better than when a person is happy in his activities, for that is his lot. For who will bring him to see what will occur after him?

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

- What questions were provoked within you?
- Did anything confuse you?
- Did anything move you emotionally?
- Did God instruct you to do something?
- Did you gain any insight into God’s character

Paul’s observations and insights

1. Is it true there is a time for everything?
2. The process of being born is just amazing!
3. Can you imagine never dying?
4. Was death in God’s original plan?
5. ‘Seed time and harvest’ is the fulfilment of the promise God had made in Genesis.
6. Why do people kill?
7. The natural healing process God included in His creation is simply awesome!
8. Bringing closure has its’ place.
9. New beginnings are a gift.
10. What is the value of weeping?
11. Why does laughing do us good?
12. Without the opportunity to mourn, soul healing is hampered.
13. Why do people like to dance?
14. Gathering stones is the preparation for doing something.
15. Throwing stones has to do with casting off.
16. To embrace is to find expression in connecting to love.
17. Searching is the manifestation of hope.
18. To give up searching is to accept it has gone!
19. Keeping is to safeguard and value with a desire to retain.
20. To throw away is know something has no future.
21. To tear apart is to make provision to reuse.

22. To sew together is to make use of what has no value.
23. God can be found in the silence.
24. Speaking is to have the opportunity to communicate with words.
25. Love underpins everything important.
26. Hate is a poison that will rot your bones.
27. Is war ever a solution to solve a dispute?
28. Peace can only be built on security.
29. Is there any true value in working?
30. Purpose is the gift of life.
31. To have eternity in our hearts is a clue that God never intended humans to die.
32. Doing good brings satisfaction to everyone.
33. There is joy in eating what you have grown yourself.
34. Solomon, the wisest man in all the earth, is in no doubt that God is the creator.
35. To fear God is to be in reverent awe of Him.
36. The cycle of life is continuous, it has not evolved.
37. Law and order bring justice, but corruption brings instability and is a breeding ground for evil.
38. Gods' judgement is based on His ability to know all things about everyone.
39. When Solomon said to himself, what part of Solomon was he speaking to?
40. The wisdom in Solomon would encourage him to contemplate humans in a different way to others.
41. Does God test us?
42. Is the beast and the human race valued in the same way by God?
43. What is important about breath that gives us life and is the last thing to leave our body?
44. Solomon is convinced dust was the material God used to make creation.
45. When Solomon is speaking of the breath, he is speaking of who we are.
46. Why are some people happy and others not so?
47. Acceptance is a place of strength.