



Ecclesiastes Study - Chapter 3:

- 1) To everything you can imagine there is an appropriate time, for every event under Heaven an appropriate time:
- 2) A season of birth and to give birth, a season to die and to let die; A season to plant and to let grow, a season to harvest and to uproot.
- 3) A season to kill and to kill off, a season to heal and to be healed; a season to break down or to break through, a season to build up or to rebuild.
- 4) A season to weep or weep with, a season to laugh with or laugh about; a season to mourn within or wail without, a season to dance or to enjoy the dance of others.
- 5) A season to cast aside stones or to throw them with purpose; a season to gather up the stones for another round; a season to hug tight and not let go, a season to let go and long for the next embrace.
- 6) A season to ardently seek and search until it's found; a season to obliterate so that nothing is left to find; a season to hang onto, a season to throw away.
- 7) A season to rip apart, a season to repair the tear; a season to hold your tongue, a season to speak your mind.
- 8) A season to love or be loved, a season to hate or feel despised; a season to wage war, a season to wage peace.
- 9) What will it benefit the one who toils and labors at all these things?
- 10) I see that God uses it all to humble man.
- 11) All the things God makes are lovely in their appropriate seasons, yet it is so difficult for man to recognize God's great design. From beginning to end, the way God works out His plan is glorious, but man only sees a small part.
- 12) I know there is no use in trying to understand all God does. In this life, the best you can do is enjoy your own work and rejoice in the work of God you **can** see.
- 13) Moreover, the very ability to appreciate the fruits of your own labor – to eat and drink happily from your own table – is in itself a gift of God.
- 14) I know that all God does lasts forever and is for His own enjoyment. Nothing we could ever do could ever undo what God builds, never fear!
- 15) Everything that was, everything that will ever be, He already possesses. Even the one running far from God He will eventually find.
- 16) By the light of day, I looked in every direction and found this: where there should have been equal justice there was perversion of justice going on as well. Where there should have been nothing but righteousness there was wickedness going on side-by-side.

- 17) My heart cried out: The righteous and the wicked He **must** judge. Only God in His season of justice can truly separate the good from the bad; the filthy from the pure.
- 18) My heart cried out: No matter how they protest their innocence to God, He will reveal them as righteous, or for the beasts they are.
- 19) And men, whether pure or beastly, will still fall the same way as the beasts of the field. When their breath leaves them for good, the body's dead and the soul's sent back to God. The beasts can't stop it; neither can we. It's futile to think otherwise.
- 20) All eventually go back to the place from which they came. What started as dust goes back to being dust.
- 21) From what we know of men, who can tell who will ascend and who will descend like a beast forevermore?
- 22) I concluded there is no use in praising yourself for all you do in this life. You have no idea what will become of your hard work and who will eventually benefit from it.

Explain the Context

From your own reading provide a short answer to the following:

What is the theme of this chapter?	What is the author communicating?
What did the author miss?	What is God trying to say?

Take a moment to consider these questions:

- 1) In what season or seasons do I find myself right now? (We believe it's possible to be in more than one season at a time. i.e.; hidden seasons and outward seasons)
- 2) What are seasons meant to accomplish in my life? (think of seasons on earth and their purpose)
- 3) How can I be honest with myself and others about the season I am currently in?
- 4) How can I respond to hidden seasons with grace and gratitude?
- 5) How will my attitude affect the way I respond when unexpected seasons come?
- 6) What are seasons of life really?

Apply the Scripture

Write the verse that stood out to you while reading [in this translation or your favorite].

How does this verse challenge you? Does it reveal an attribute of God's character?

For further study:

What do these scriptures tell us about the seasons of life? Add any others you find.

- James 4:13-15
- Psalm 139: 16
- Daniel 2:21
- Acts 14:17

Lessons the *author* should have learned:

- Seasons of life are meant to bring us closer to becoming the person God created us to be.
- God has pursued you and placed eternity in your heart. That means something.