

To Every Thing There is a Season

ECCLESIASTES 3, VERSES 1-8

1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: 2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which 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 get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; 7 A time to rend, 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 of war, and a time of peace.

INFORMATION

The book of Ecclesiastes is an interesting book to read in that it approaches life in a novel way. The author, probably Solomon, though we cannot be certain, presents his own personal search for life's meaning. He likely wrote this book late in his life after he had been blessed by God and yet drifted away from God quite a bit. His self-examination of his own life is of great value to us. While we have extracted a few verses here, it is quite important that the book be read in its entirety to fully appreciate what the author is saying. This particular passage has been popular with people, at least in part, because it strikes a chord with most people when they read it, regardless of their current life situation.

WHAT IT MEANS TO OUR FAMILY

This passage reminds us that there is a rhythm to life, a pattern. Sometimes we are in a hurry to get something done, to see the end of the week, to grow up, to attend a concert or event or something else. Sometimes we are apprehensive about upcoming events or eventualities. The Bible tells us that there is a time for everything. We should respect this and be patient for the time to come for whatever it is that we are looking forward to. We should also remember when we are going through difficult times that the Lord is not unaware. If we read between the lines here, we see that a loving God is intimately aware of our lives and what we experience, what we suffer, what we long for and what we fear. The Lord has prepared good things for his people. He counters the wickedness of the world by interjecting good things for his people. For weeping, the Lord provides laughter. For mourning, the Lord provides dancing. For war, the Lord provides peace. The idea that "this too shall pass" is an important one to remember.

Relevant Passages

Psalm 9:9

The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

Psalm 149:2-3

Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. 3 Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp.

Isaiah 55:6

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

Romans 12:15

Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

Galatians 6:9

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.