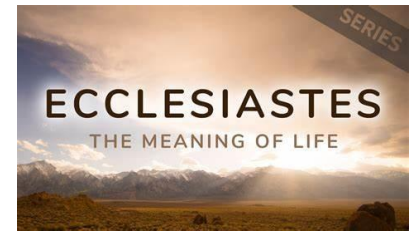


# Questions Through Ecclesiastes

## Lesson 1: What Does a Time for Everything Mean and What Does a Time to Be Born and a Time to Die Mean?



- \* This passage in Ecclesiastes 3 is a well-known passage that deals with the \_\_\_\_\_, cyclical nature of life and says that there is a proper time for everything under the sun.
- \* In this passage, the \_\_\_\_\_ says that there is a time for every \_\_\_\_\_ in life. He illustrates this truth by comparing opposites: \_\_\_\_\_ pairs of contrasting activities as examples of how life is comprised of various seasons.
- \* A straightforward reading of the passage reveals several concepts:
- \* First, the \_\_\_\_\_ of our activities is important.
- \* Second, these \_\_\_\_\_ in which certain pursuits are proper are appointed by God.
- \* A key to this passage is found a few verses later in (v. 11). The \_\_\_\_\_ activity at the \_\_\_\_\_ time, bringing about God's \_\_\_\_\_, is a beautiful part of God's overall plan.
- \* Third, (vv. 1-8) serves as a \_\_\_\_\_ between the first two chapters and the section that follows. People are to accept each day as a gift from the hand of God (2:24–26). Why? Because God has a reason and a time for all things. People may be ignorant of God's \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 9-11), but they are \_\_\_\_\_ to enjoy life in the present (vv. 12-13) and \_\_\_\_\_ in God's sovereignty (vv. 14-15).
- \* God offers much wisdom in the saying, "*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.*" God is \_\_\_\_\_. Our activity in this world is meaningful as we rely on His \_\_\_\_\_, His \_\_\_\_\_, and His \_\_\_\_\_.
- \* Looking back over his own life and considering the sovereignty of God, King Solomon penned the words in (vv. 1-2). Solomon had observed that life consists of a series of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and God is the ultimate authority over them all.
- \* With the statement "*there is a time to be born and a time to die,*" Solomon acknowledged that, from start to finish, every \_\_\_\_\_ in every \_\_\_\_\_ of the cycle of life is \_\_\_\_\_ by God.
- \* In (vv. 1-8), Solomon presents a catalog of contrasting seasons and times (birth and death, planting and harvest, killing and healing, etc.). Together, these pairings \_\_\_\_\_ a sense of all human activity in its myriad forms.

- \* While appearing to be opposites, a time to be born and a time to die are instead \_\_\_\_\_, both having their appropriate place in the rhythm of ever-changing seasons and cycles of life.
- \* In the original language, the word translated as “be born” is the active verb form “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- \* Every human life has a determined \_\_\_\_\_, and within its duration there are meaningful \_\_\_\_\_. There is an appointed time for every person to be born and a time to die (Job 14:5, Heb. 9:27).
- \* \_\_\_\_\_ is typically a joyous and celebratory season in life (John 16:21; Ps. 113:9; 127:3). On the other hand, \_\_\_\_\_ generally is a grievous and mournful time. Yet God has a good purpose for everything that takes place between one’s birth and death (Rom. 8:28).
- \* Scripture’s promise that our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are in God’s hands, we can trust that there’s no such thing as an untimely death.
- \* There is a time to be born and a time to die ought also to remind us of Christ’s encouragement not to be \_\_\_\_\_ about our everyday lives. In (Matt. 6:25–34), Jesus taught that life is more than \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- \* Neither should we because \_\_\_\_\_ won’t add a single moment to our lives. We can trust that God, who knows our needs from beginning to end, will love and care for us all of our days.