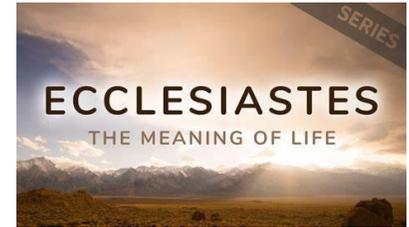


Questions Through Ecclesiastes

Lesson 7: What does it mean a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing?

Ecclesiastes 3:5



- * In (Eccl. 3:1–8), King Solomon observes that God has a plan for all people at all **times** and in every _____.
- * “*There is a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,*” says Solomon in (Eccl. 3:5). This couplet is the _____ of _____ contrasting seasons in which Solomon catalogs and condenses all human activity in its myriad forms.
- * The word for “embrace” in the original Hebrew means “_____” (something or someone) tightly in your arms, usually with fondness.
- * The same verb for “embrace” is used often in Scripture to describe two people greeting one another.
 - * We find it in (Gen. 29:13), when Laban enthusiastically _____ his nephew Jacob
 - * We find it in (Gen. 33:4), when brothers Esau and Jacob have their _____ reunion.
 - * In the New Testament, believers regularly embrace and _____ one another with “a holy kiss” (2 Cor. 13:12; Rom. 16:16; Gal. 2:9; Acts 20:10, 37).
- * A time to embrace can also be used as a _____ for sexual unions, as in (Song of Solomon 2:6) and Prov. 5:20.
- * The _____ detailed specific “times to refrain from embracing” in (Lev. 15).
- * With the hope of holding off a dreadful judgment of sin, God called the people of Israel to consecrate themselves in solemn acts of _____ (read Joel 2:12).
- * This season of repentance also involved a time to _____ from embracing.
- * The apostle Paul also alludes to a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing in his teaching about principles for _____ (read 1 Cor. 7:3–5).
- * Christian couples are not to _____ one another sexually except by mutual consent. There is an appropriate “time to refrain from embracing,” but only for an agreed-upon period and purpose—to devote themselves to prayer.
- * In life, there will be seasons that refraining is the better choice, once the dedicated season of refraining is over, then comes a season of embracing.