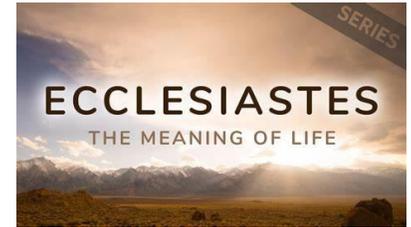


# Questions Through Ecclesiastes

## Lesson 10: What does it mean that there is a time to tear and a time to mend?

### Ecclesiastes 3:7a



- \* In the original language, the word translated as “tear” means “\_\_\_\_\_.” The verb for “mend” refers to “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- \* In ancient days, if a person received terrible news, the custom was to \_\_\_\_\_ one’s garment in an expression of intense grief. When the tragedy resolved, it was customary to \_\_\_\_\_ one’s garment by sewing it back together.
- \* King David ripped his robes when he heard the news that Absalom had murdered all of his remaining sons (2 Sam. 13:31)
- \* When Reuben discovered that his brother Joseph was missing, he tore his clothes in grief (Gen. 37:29)
- \* In the New Testament, Paul and Barnabas tore their garments in anguish when they saw that the people of Lystra were about to pay homage to them as deities (Acts 14:14–15)
- \* “A time to mend” is a graphic analogy for the inner \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ that gradually takes place through the process of \_\_\_\_\_.
- \* There are times when relationships must be \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor. 5:9; 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:7), and there are times when we must get out the symbolic “needle and thread” to patch things up (Eph. 4:32; Matt. 6:15; Mark 11:25; Col. 3:13).
- \* “A time to tear” is similarly associated with God’s \_\_\_\_\_ in the Old Testament.
- \* When Jesus Christ died on the cross, the temple \_\_\_\_\_ was torn from top to bottom (Matt. 27:51).
- \* “A time to tear and a time to mend” not only reminds us that there are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ seasons but also that there are both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ times in this life.
- \* We won’t always understand the Lord’s purpose in the varying \_\_\_\_\_ of birth and death, joy and sorrow, gain and loss, good and bad, but we can humbly accept that God knows the reasons because He sees the whole picture (Prov. 16:4).