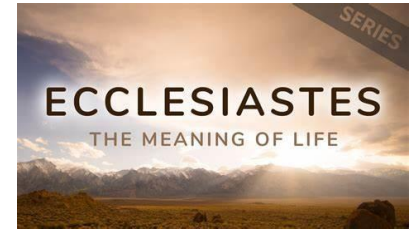


Questions Through Ecclesiastes

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).